

# MILITARY

## ILLUSTRATED

## PAST & PRESENT

No.55

DECEMBER 1992

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*BRITISH ARMY ON CAMPAIGN, 1775-81*

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*THE LONDON REGIMENT, 1908-37*



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□ PAST & PRESENT □

No. 55

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## ON THE SCREEN



### Video releases to rent

#### **Block Robe** (Entertainment in Video: 15)

Bruce Beresford was one of those directors most strongly associated with the resurgence of the Australian film industry in the 1970s. Readers will be familiar with his *Breaker Morant* (1980), about three Australian soldiers court-martialled by the British for murdering prisoners during the Boer War. Beresford's most recent films have been made in North America, including the Australian/Canadian co-production *Black Robe* (1991), which received a limited theatrical release earlier this year. Brian Moore wrote the script from his own bestselling novel, which was itself based on *Relations*, written by early Jesuit missionaries.

The film begins in 1634 at Champlain's fort in Quebec. A young Jesuit priest called Father Laforque (Lothaire Bluteau) embarks on an expedition upriver by canoe to re-establish contact with Itonnaria, a mission-post set up to convert the Huron tribe. He is accompanied by some Algonquin Indians, led by their chief Chomina, and by Daniel (Aden Young), a carpenter who has agreed to work as interpreter. The journey is fraught with danger: the party is attacked by hostile Iroquois Indians who intend to sell the survivors as slaves. Their journey continues after an escape from the Iroquois camp initiated by Annulla, Chomina's daughter.

The film explores Laforque's spiritual doubts and sexual anxieties, and the problem of integration between alien cultures. It follows the tradition of liberal westerns, such as Kevin Costner's *Dances With Wolves* (1991), by the portrayal of both 'good' and 'bad' tribes. The Indians speak Cree and Mohawk dialects, contributing to a convincing portrayal of Indian life which is harsher than

that seen in Costner's film. The photography makes full use of the breathtaking scenery at Saguenay-Lac St Jean in Northern Quebec, set against a variety of weather conditions. Highly recommended.

### Video releases to buy **Ivan's Childhood** (Artificial Eye: PG)

#### **The Ascent** (Connosieur: PG) **The Silver Fleet** (Connosieur: U) **2000 Women** (Connosieur: PG)

The Eastern Front in the Second World War (referred to in Russia as the Great Patriotic War) is deeply embedded in the Soviet national subconscious. Throughout the Stalinist years the Russian film industry made many films about the heroic struggle of the Red Army or the partisans against the Nazi invaders. Two films now available on video were made at a time when increasing liberalisation in Russia made possible some demythologising of the war. Both use small scale subjects to explore personal relationships in times of adversity.

*Ivan's Childhood/Ivanovo Detsstvo* (1962) tells the story of a twelve-year-old boy (Kolya Burlyaev) who joins the partisans after his parents have been killed by the Nazis. After a lone reconnaissance mission, he crosses a river and is found by a Russian patrol. He insists on being reunited with his partisan unit before disclosing any information. He refuses the offer of a place in a military academy, and is taken back across river to go once more behind enemy lines: his fate is not discovered until the Red Army triumphantly enters Berlin...

The film was the first feature by the director Andrei Tarkovsky and won the Best Film award at the 1962 Venice Film Festival. The photography is memorable: flashbacks showing Ivan's idyllic childhood before the advent of war are shot with a lyrical intensity, and slowly descending star-shells cast

an eerie glow over the wintery landscapes.

*The Ascent/Voskhozhdenie* (1976) tells the story of two partisans, Sotnikov (Boris Plotnikov) and Rybak (Vladimir Gostiukhin), who are sent by their unit commander to forage for food. They are helped by a farmer's wife, but are caught by a German patrol while hiding in the farmhouse attic. They are interrogated by a Russian police officer, Portnov (Anatoli Solonitsin), who is collaborating with the Germans. Portnov tells them they can escape torture and death by agreeing to collaborate. Each must make his own choice.

The film was made by Larisa Shepitko who co-wrote the screenplay with Yuri Klepikov. It was based on the novella *Scotnikov* by Vassil Bykov which was set in Belorussia in 1942. The film is unusual in that it depicts Russians collaborating with the Nazis. Shepitko and Klepikov retained Bykov's religious allegory: a hanging scene at the end consciously evokes the Crucifixion. The film won the Golden Bear award at the 1977 Berlin Film Festival.

Shepitko completed only four features before a fatal car crash in 1979. While she was making *The Ascent*, her husband Elem Klimov was initiating work on *Came and See*, an even more harrowing story of the razing to the ground of a village occupied by Nazis, a film which was finally completed in 1985. Klimov successfully campaigned for the unshelving of Soviet films in the West for the first time films like Alexei Gherman's gripping war movie *Trial on the Road* (1971).

Connosieur have released two British films made during the war. *The Silver Fleet* (1943) is set in Occupied Holland and tells the story of Jaap van Leyden (Ralph Richardson), a shipyard owner in the town of Schipsdam who is com-

### A scene from Andrei Tarkovsky's 'Ivan's Childhood'.

pleting two submannes when the Germans arrive. While outwardly giving the impression of collaborating with the Germans, he is in reality planning the hi-jack of one submarine on its sea trials, and the destruction of the other. His inspiration comes from the story of Piet Hein, a 17th century Dutch hero who defeated the Spanish Armada.

This fictional story is told in flashback, as his wife Helene (Googie Withers) reads his diary. The film was produced by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger for their Archers production company, and was directed and written by Vernon Sewell and Gordon Wellesley. Ralph Richardson gave a controlled performance as van Leyden and Esmond Knight played the role of the SS adversary von Schiffer, despite having been in real life blinded on the *Prince of Wales* when it engaged the *Bismark*. German sailors were played by Royal Netherlands Navy personnel; the credits acknowledge the co-operation of the Royal Netherlands government-in-exile. The impossibility of filming in Holland necessitated location shooting in, for example, Kings Lynn to take advantage of the town's Dutch-influenced architecture.

Lastly, *Two Thousand Women* (1944), written and directed by Frank Launder, is set in an internment camp for British women in Occupied France. This lightweight drama concerns two British fliers who are secreted into the camp and then helped to escape. The cast includes familiar faces such as Phyllis Calvert, Patricia Roc, Flora Robson, Jean Kent, Betty Jardine, Renee Houston, Thora Hird and Dulcie Gray.

Stephen J. Greenhill

AS EXPECTED, September — the first real month of the season — was a busy one, with sales from Christie's, Sotheby's, Phillips, Wallis and Wallis, Kent and Weller and Dufty and there was also the Autumn London Arms Fair. It was also a busy month in the financial world with exchange rates going in all directions. If anybody thinks that the money market is distant and has little immediate bearing on everyday life then they should speak to the auctioneers. Every auctioneer has a large number of buyers from overseas and for them the rate of exchange can be vital, making all the difference between bidding or not...

After the financial crisis the German bidder suddenly found that the price of his British purchases were about 10-15% cheaper. On the other hand the British bidder trying to buy overseas found that his purchases were costing more. If the Continental client had entered items for sale some time ago and agreed reserves and prices in sterling current at the time he was alarmed to find that the figures had been suddenly reduced by the same percentage, as the rate of exchange of sterling had dropped. At the end of the month there was an arms fair in Berlin and some dealers who normally patronise the London Fair decided to try their luck at the new venue. By all accounts they had no trouble selling, but buying new material was difficult.

Despite the absence of one or two familiar faces the London Arms Fair seemed little different with a very busy Friday and a quieter Saturday, but overall the attendance was around the average. Most of the dealers left feeling that, whilst they were not exactly overjoyed, in the circumstances they had not done badly. Visitors

## AUCTION SCENE

to the fair were favourably impressed with the amount of new material on display and also commented that prices did not appear to have risen as much as usual. The shortage of ready cash has made the market look carefully at its profit margins and realise that the buyers now have to be coaxed as they have become more selective and cautious in their purchases.

Despite the air of restraint in the market one area seems to flourish — deactivated weapons. There were several dealers at the Fair offering them and the number of such items now in private possession must be staggering. The Birmingham Proof House alone has processed some 25,000 weapons. Should the Home Office ever have second thoughts about the whole business of deactivating there is not a lot that could be done with this quantity of items, ranging from small self-loading pistols to Vickers guns on tripods, in circulation.

What of the sales? Kent Sales tireless director reported a good sale with some excellent prices but also commented on the currency problems. Uniforms sold well with a Guard's uniform going for £2,250 and a 3rd Dragoon's one for £1,850. A Nazi citation for the award of a Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross sold for an amazing £2,800, and still holding their price were the 8th Air Force squadron patches which were selling at around a top figure of £250.

Sotheby's Military Theme Sale was next and although the rooms were hardly crowded the results were very good. At the end of the sale there was a figure of 14% unsold but a number of after sales offers and private treaty sales reduced that figure even further.

India Pattern Brown Bess flintlock muskets were in demand and were selling at prices around the £700 mark depending on condition. Armour, as always, sold well although one of the most interesting pieces, a 17th century breast-plate bearing the owner's name, failed to sell in the rooms. However, a National Institution snapped it up after the sale.

The rare Tippoo Sultan flintlock pistol dating from about 1795 sold for £5,200 and an early officer's helmet of the Indian Artillery for £6,800. A fine shoulder belt plate of The 68th (Durham Light Infantry) Regiment sold for £460.

This sale was followed shortly afterwards by an Aviation Theme sale at Billingshurst, Sotheby's Sussex Rooms, at which the tremendously important Victoria Cross group of the First World Fighter Ace Mick Mannock sold for £125,000. Uniform equipment and similar material sold well but pictures and prints aroused only limited interest.

Christie's held the second part of the Dyck Collection sale and most lots sold very well although there were some pieces which failed to reach reserve. Since this was a German collection it may be imagined that there were alarms and excursions over the exchange rates. The cheapest item was a mid-19th century powder flask at £110 and the most expensive was a fabulous garniture of weapons. This prime lot consisted of a pair of flintlock holster pistols, a sporting rifle and a fowling piece which sold for £33,000. There were plenty of antique firearms and powder flasks, etc, available at figures between these two extremes.

Phillip's sales was a good mixture ranging from Japanese edged



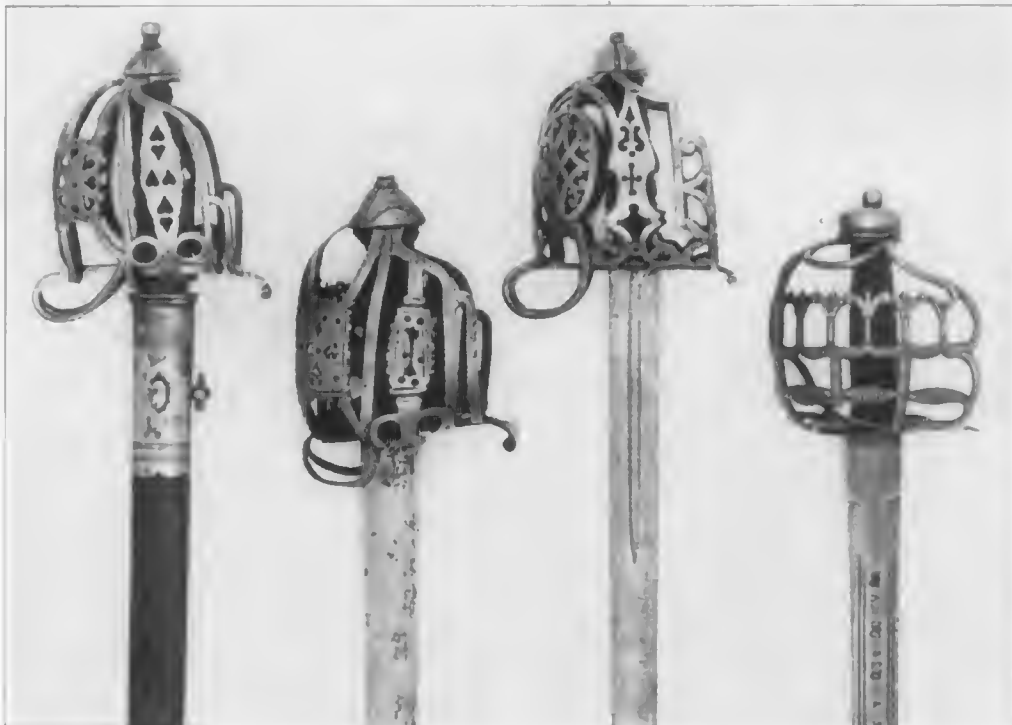
*Typical harquebusier's armour of the period of the English Civil wars with a three bar pot and a cuirass of breast and back plates which would have been worn over a buff leather coat. Lot 198 in Sotheby's military sale which sold for the hammer price of £900.*

weapons to sporting guns. World War II Japanese swords maintained their usual prices around the £200 mark and the same may be said of Third Reich edged weapons, for example an NSKK dagger at £150 and a Luftwaffe officer's sword at £220. Older weapons fared well with a very fine Ballock dagger circa 1460 which made a very healthy £4,000, a schiavona of the late 17th century sold for £400 and a good French revolutionary sword bearing the usual patriotic mottoes realised £480. Nearly equalling the Ballock dagger was a fine Persian shamshir which went to £3,800. Officers' blue cloth helmets were selling at prices around £200-£270 and a Victorian Household Cavalry trumpet banner sold for a good price at £650.

One of the auctioneer's worries is that of selling, unintentionally, a fake piece. As most collectors know the various auctioneers have a built in safety clause allowing the unhappy client to reclaim his money. What the client may not realise is that the Trade Descriptions Act also covers auctions. If a Trading Officer is told that an item in an auction is a fake and he is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for this claim he may seize the object and consider legal action!!

**Frederick Wilkinson**

*A group of swords from the same sale. Left to right 1. A basket hilted sword of the late 19th century with an etched blade; £420. 2. A sword of similar form but dating from the late 18th century and a fighting weapon rather than a military dress weapon; £680. 3. Another basket hilted sword with the guard of unusual form and of 19th century date, £390. 4. A fine officer's basket hilted broadsword of mid 18th century with the blade stamped ANDREA FARRARA. This was the name of a famous swordsmith which was stamped on hundreds of blades to persuade the owner that it was of good quality, £680.*







**Above:**  
A Royalist captain of horse —  
book cover for a novel.

**Below:**  
'The New Excalibur'. Cover  
for the book published by Leo  
Cooper.

## Chris Collingwood: Man For All Seasons

HUGH CRABTREE

THIS MONTH we look at the life and work of the artist who created the superb images for the world-famous Jorvik Viking Centre in York, and who is now embarked on a memorable series of English Civil War paintings.

CHRIS COLLINGWOOD has never really grown up. He still loves to do all those things that little boys love to do: painting, shooting guns, playing with his mates, bashing his drums and blowing all his pocket money on an impetuous whim. He also has an innocent trust in the good within his fellow man, a deep love and respect for nature, a philosophy that insists on his being true to oneself and hundreds of friends and colleagues who absolutely love him to death. Therein, perhaps, lies a lesson to us all.

Chris Collingwood is also a damned good artist. It is too easy to simply witness the breathtaking technical brilliance of his work. For some, it often actually masks the painstaking attention to detail and the emotional involve-

ment that Chris has with his subject. His ability to create the real stuff of life; flesh, blood, metal, wood and stone as well as movement, action and feeling, has never failed to impress both professional and amateur eye alike.

Where did it all start? Surely the passionate affair that Chris has with matters military must in some way originate from his pedigree. Naval historians will need no prompting in identifying his four generations removed uncle. His grandfather served in the Royal Leicesters during the First World War but returned home (due to failing eyesight) to train

**Opposite:**  
One of the Jorvik Viking  
Centre posters (courtesy the  
Jorvik Centre).







cavalry and artillery horses and thus survived the almost complete annihilation of the regiment on the Somme in July 1916. His father had wished to keep up the naval tradition but was held in a reserve occupation during the Second World War working with the highly secret ISRB (Inter-Services Research Bureau) — a kind of real 'Q'.

His father, himself an expert wood carver, sculptor and painter, has been an immeasurable influence on Chris' life, offering gentle encouragement and support when most needed. He was also responsible for initiating his son's passion for arms and armour during a youthful visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. On that day began a lifelong interest when Chris fell in love with the suits of armour, the pistols, rapiers and the awful romance of warfare. A declared pacifist, despite his substantial arsenal, he has never shot a living thing in his life and has not a violent sinew in his body.

*The Earl of Essex, from the Royal Britain Exhibition at the Barbican Centre.*



Nevertheless, the aching desire to be part of the romance remains and will remain with him to the end. 'Boys' Own? Naivety? No, rather the precious making of the man.

Born in Maidenhead in 1950, Chris illustrated virtually all his school work with margin figures. This was not always appreciated but he soon learned that a deliberately-forgotten gym kit consigned him to the artroom for lines... and paint! He became interested in history via adventure books and soon got drawn to the sword, winning medals for his fencing.

Chris went on to art school in Berkshire in 1967 where the accent was firmly on the commercial. Received wisdom was to go into advertising. However, his early inspiration had been the artists in 'Look and Learn' and a fascination with the 17th century Dutch Masters. His thesis on Arms and Armour, which was instrumental in his achievement of a Diploma in Art and Design, made his tutors realise that their pleas were going to be ignored and Collingwood was headed for other things.

After college, Chris worked



*Chris Collingwood at home in his north Devon studio.*

for the animation studio of Hallas and Batchelor as an animator's assistant, learning to break down figure movement and control action. He also spent time as a background artist but he became frustrated with being too small a part of the whole and threw in the secure position and comfortable accommodation to return home to Mum. Why? Well, quite simply: 'A man's got to do what a man's got to do'. A chance to become a book-jacket illustrator with an agency had arisen, opening up the exciting lure of being about to concentrate on figure work and even offering the possibility of combining his historical and military interests. And so it was. Despite the drop in salary and the lack of security, Chris could now do what he was becoming best at doing.

His first commission was an illustration of an Hussar at the Charge of the Light Brigade. Determined to get everything militarily exactly right, Chris went to the National Army Museum to make sketches. The author, as is so often the case, had got all the details wrong, claiming the hero was in the charge wearing a uniform of the East India Company.

Thanks to an elderly passer-by, Chris got it right. The gentleman in question had just completed months of research and was able to inform Chris of every participant's regiment, uniform and career detail down to the last button and promotion! The lesson this taught Chris was the value of accurate research and the benefit to his own satisfaction and integrity, of getting it right, despite the ever present commercial pressure of the deadline.

When Western novels were popular, Chris was much in demand for his action-packed covers. Working closely with the authors, he even completed some covers before the story was finished to find the illustrated scene written into the story.

Who remembers Herne the Hunter, Crow and Gunslinger?

In 1984, a move to North Devon — where Chris now resides — and a part of the world that had been his spiritual home since childhood, coincided with perhaps his now best-known work. He was commissioned to produce an evocative illustration to be used as part of the promotion campaign for the newly-opened Jorvik Viking Centre in York. Using his beloved multi-image technique, the haunting face suspended over a desolate coastline was an instant success. The Centre went on to win a travel industry award for the poster using Chris' illustration and I well remember the immense thrill both Chris and I got on arriving at York station to find a hug 30 x 20 foot print, displayed high above the platform concourse, greeting travellers all! 'It works! Even at that size, it bloody well works,' was all Chris could say. Since then the image has appeared again and again on everything from posters to pencils, teatowels and teeshirts!

In 1988 Chris was asked to paint a series of figures in the style of the 'Old Masters' for display at the Barbican as part of the Royal Britain Exhibition. So successful was he in emulating the Masters' technique: multi-glazing the painting to merge parts of the image into the background that visitors to the exhibition, almost without exception, thought they were looking at prints of the genuine article. Some even believed our museums had been on a spending spree!

Chris continues to pursue his other great love: traditional folk music. As a drummer who came to the genre from jazz he had to find some would-be rockers to let him in. Before



leaving his original home town of Reading, he had been a fully paid up member of the Reading Barn Dance Co-operative, providing folk-rocking entertainment all over the south of England. He now plays with a variety of line-ups in Devon, sticking mostly to folk, though occasional rhythm and blues creep in. He has played more than once with no lesser performers of the folk-rock style than Dave Pegg and Simon Nicol of Fairport Convention fame.

Chris' technique, crafted over long years of book jacket illustration, has now settled to a well-rehearsed skill, although he himself would be the first to protest that such a skill development is never-ending and always in need of improvement. Originally working in acrylics, he now uses oils. He carefully prepares a ground of finely sanded gesso on hard-board. Starting with detailed pencil work (a medium he is very fond of in itself), he then satisfies himself with the feel of the figures in the first instance. These he then traces down onto the board using a red chalk paper. This leaves a very faint outline allowing easy alteration and development. The picture is then worked up using thin washes of oil, usually completing some detail along the way before continuing.

Quite often the painting ends up rather differently from the original idea. Chris describes it as a real fusion of artist, ideas, materials and subject. 'The painting seems to have a mind of its own — figures and details appear as if from nowhere.' He would say that research and reference are paramount and would dearly love to be able to spend even more time on this aspect, but commercial deadlines are unforgiving. The opportunity for greater attention to detail allowed by undertaking his own limited edition series is something he is much looking forward to.

Chris Collingwood's figures are real people; indeed many of them are friends and neighbours used as models in order to allow the artist to get exactly what he is after in the way of reference. But more than that, the figures are real to the eye of the beholder, solid flesh and blood and somehow more art than illustration. The weapons are heavy, sometimes cumbersome, and soldiers carry them with the authenticity of men who know how to use them. Chris feels it is important to bridge the gap between the somewhat cartoony illustration

and the genuine old master reality. The desire he has to bring solidity and realism to his work is ever-present as he works. His greatest influences are William Dobson and his predecessor Van Dyke, both court painters to King Charles I.

Living in Devon has allowed Chris to join the local shooting club and fire his ancient muskets and pistols. This has furthered his understanding of the complexities and slowness of the many ignition systems. He has personal experience of everything from matchlock to Thompson sub-machine-gun. His favourites are a 1787 Brown Bess and an 1860 army Colt. (A Sharps Carbine also gets a mention in despatches for sheer inflammatory spectacle!)

Recession works its way into most of our lives and the life of an illustrator is no exception. The results, however, are a little bizarre. Romance (and I'm talking about the slushy stuff) continues to sell. It seems some of us need to escape. Currently, a more than frustrated Chris Collingwood (since the recession has lasted long enough for the novelty to have well and truly worn off) is heartily fed up with the same old brief.... 'She was the most beautiful girl in the world and her heart was captured for a brief, an oh so brief but rapturous moment by the tall handsome officer of the guards.' In short: endless lovelies in landscapes!

Perhaps frustration in and with his work is just one of the hallmarks and burdens of being a perfectionist, since, as a painter, perfectionist he certainly is. 1992 could not have come soon enough: the 350th anniversary of the 'English' Civil Wars. At last! Collingwood's Conquest! The opportunity to combine his love of history and romance; his particular interest in and knowledge of the 17th century; his skill as an artist and illustrator. Above all, though, the opportunity to paint horse, foot, muskets, swords: war... oh yes, that awful romance of war. The remembrance of the dreadful conflict that was the 'English' Civil Wars finally allows Chris to cast off his illustrator's frustration and launch himself into a new career as limited edition painter.

It is my humble opinion that the name of Chris Collingwood will ere long become almost as famous as 'My Dear Doll', to the military cognoscenti, or at least to those of them that want to appreciate, and perhaps even collect, fine, masterful art. **MI**

## COLONIAL WARFARE

# The First China War

CARLTON WRIGLEY

WITH THE Hong Kong Territories shortly to revert to China, we thought it would be opportune to examine the events of what is popularly known as the 'First Opium War' and how the island became a British colony in the first place.

FROM THE earliest times of European exploration in the Far East, the Chinese authorities had steadfastly and strenuously made efforts to exclude Europeans from their territories, even for the purposes of trade. However, during the early part of the 19th century trade with Europeans began to be established, due to the persistence of the non-Chinese merchants and with the connivance of local Chinese officials. As this trade grew, a number of settlements at various ports along the China coast were established by European merchants, although the principal points were Macao and Canton.

Traders soon discovered that the most lucrative commodity, and the item most sought after by the Chinese, was opium, which eventually became the mainstay of the China Trade. Until 1833 the Honourable East India Company of London

had enjoyed a monopoly of the Chinese opium trade, being able to supply a better quality, cheaper product from India than the locally grown opium. In fact the trade produced for the Honourable East India Company a revenue of £1 million per annum. Canton became the centre for the Company's opium trade and, having a monopoly, the Company was able to control the volume of the opium trade. As a result their officials and traders had established relations with the Chinese authorities in Canton which, although not cordial, were at least reasonable and businesslike.

When the Honourable East India Company's trade monopoly was not renewed in 1833 the whole situation

*A 'primitive' watercolour of a light company soldier of the 93rd Regiment.*







*The 55th (Westmoreland) Regiment landing at Chusan in 1841.*

changed. Being no longer regulated, the volume of the opium trade increased rapidly, now being open to all traders. It is not therefore surprising that a series of unfortunate incidents occurred between the less reputable traders and the Chinese officials.

In 1837 the Chinese authorities in Peking decided to act against the European traders and a Commissioner, by the name of Lin, was despatched to Canton armed with the Emperor's authority to use any means to stop the importation of opium. How much this course of action was to protect the Chinese home-grown opium trade and how much to prevent the incursion of Europeans into China is open to question. Commissioner Lin's actions, however, were quite positive. He adopted an uncompromising and arrogant attitude in his interviews with Captain Elliott, the British Trade Superintendent in Canton, which culminated in a demand for the surrender to him, Lin, of all opium stocks held by the non-Chinese merchants at Canton. Acting on the advice of Captain Elliott, the merchants had no alternative but to agree to the demand and opium valued at between £2-£3 million was surrendered to Lin to be destroyed. As compensation the merchants received a bond signed by Captain Elliott and drawn on the British government.

Encouraged by this success, Lin next demanded the confiscation of all ships that had been engaged in the opium trade and the death penalty for all Europeans who had been involved in opium trading. Clearly Captain Elliott could not agree to such a demand and as a result he, together with the Europeans who had remained at Canton, withdrew to Macao. At the same time, a

request was sent from Captain Elliott to the Governor-General of India, Lord Auckland, for armed assistance. When advised of the threatening situation by the Governor-General of India, Lord Melbourne's Government in Britain decided that punitive action was necessary and consequently war was declared on China early in 1840. Lord Auckland was authorised to organise an expedition of appropriate strength from India.

The troops initially identified to form the expeditionary force were concentrated at Madras where they were embarked in a fleet of 26 transport ships and, in company with one Line-of-Battle ship and six frigates of the Royal Navy together with two steam-driven ships of the Honourable East India Company Marine, they sailed for Singapore, arriving there in May.

The troops forming the expeditionary force were: **Artillery** — 'C' Troop Madras Horse Artillery and 'B' and 'C'

**Companies** 2nd Battalion Madras Foot Artillery; **Infantry** — 18th Regiment (Royal Irish), 26th Regiment (The Cameronians), 49th Regiment (The Royal Berkshires) and a composite Native Infantry Battalion drawn from ten Madras battalions; **Engineers** — 2nd Company Madras Sappers and Miners.

The fleet reached Macao on 21 June. Captain Elliott joined the expeditionary force and, after discussions between him and the naval and military commanders, Canton was declared to be in a state of blockade from 28 June. The expeditionary force, with its Royal Navy escort, sailed north, entering the harbour of Chusan on 4 July. The warships easily dispersed the Chinese fleet of junks in the harbour and, after a short bombardment by the guns of the warships, troops were landed and were able to occupy Chusan with little opposition from the Chinese. At this point military operations were suspended to

allow Captain Elliott and his negotiators to discuss terms with the Chinese officials. The negotiations were protracted and, although any time gained was of advantage to the Chinese, the talks were futile from Britain's point of view. The blockade was not being enforced; the Chinese were strengthening their coastal defences; the British forces were becoming seriously depleted by sickness.

It was not until early January 1841 that a decision was taken to renew hostilities. The timely arrival of reinforcements, the 37th Madras Native Infantry, meant that a force of 1,400 fit men, including a large detachment of Royal Marines from the Fleet, was available for operations. This force was embarked in three of the steam-driven ships and on 7 January was landed near the fort at Chuensi. Under cover of a supporting naval bombardment, the troops stormed and captured the fort. Another fort was captured by a naval landing party and with these two forts captured the route to Canton was cleared. Once again the Chinese sought to buy time by offering negotiations for a ceasefire. The lack of progress towards an agreement caused the British on 25 February to break off the negotiations and in a surprise attack they cap-

#### **Below:**

*The 55th Regiment in the attack on Chinhai in 1841.*

#### **Below:**

*The 55th Regiment again, during the attack on Chiang-Fu on 21 July 1842.*





tured the remaining outer defence forts of Canton. Once again Captain Elliott became involved in peace negotiations, but again, with no results forthcoming, operations had to be resumed and by 18 March Canton was finally captured with minimal British casualties.

After this defeat, the Chinese sued for peace. It was now agreed by the Chinese that they would open Canton to European trade and that they would guarantee the safety of all the European traders. In return the British were to evacuate both Canton and Chusan, although as a safety measure the Royal Navy was to maintain a presence in the waters off Canton. Whilst these events were happening at and around Canton, on 26 February the British had made a landing on the island of Hong Kong and succeeded in occupying the territory. Hong Kong was considered to be a secure and convenient base for any future operations along the China coast, and consequently the British troops were concentrated on the island. Major-General Sir Hugh Gough arrived at Hong Kong on 2 March to take joint command of operations in the area with Admiral Sir Le Fleming Senhouse; both, however, still

being subject to the political advice of Captain Elliott.

During May, in abrogation of the ceasefire agreement, the Chinese attacked the Europeans who had by then returned to Canton, obliging them, on the advice of Captain Elliott, to again evacuate the area. On 21 May the Chinese attempted an attack on the Royal Navy ships off Canton with fire ships. The attack was abortive and the Navy destroyed rather more than 70 Chinese ships. Captain Elliott now accepted that Canton would again have to be captured and that this would be only a first step in ensuring a viable peace settlement with the Chinese.

Canton had now been heavily defended and contained an estimated 45,000 Chinese troops. Gough's total combatant force amounted to only 2,500 men, of whom 1,000 were sailors and marines. The plan to take Canton which General Gough devised, required a landing of troops west of the town at Tsingpu. Prior to the main landings, a small column comprising the 26th Regiment supported by a Madras Artillery contingent with one field gun and one mortar, was landed and succeeded in capturing the river fort which overlooked the landing place for the main troop landings.

The assault force was organised into four brigades: **1st Brigade** — 18th Regiment plus Royal Marines; **2nd Brigade** — Two Royal Navy detachments; **3rd Brigade** — Madras Foot Artillery; and **4th Brigade** —

49th Regiment and 37th Madras Native Infantry. The Madras Artillery was equipped with four 12 pdrs, two 6 pdrs and four 9 pdrs, all muzzle loading, smoothbore field pieces, plus three 5½ inch mortars and a rocket battery.

The main force, with General Gough in command, was landed during the night, together with all equipment, from a flotilla of 80 small boats which were towed to the landing area by the steam-driven HMS *Nemesis*. The heights overlooking Canton were secured at dawn on 25 May and the town's outlying forts were captured during the course of the same day. At this stage of the attack, the strongest resistance was encountered from a large number of Chinese troops in an entrenched and strongly fortified defensive position outside the town walls. This position was assaulted and carried by the combined attack of the 18th and 49th Regiments. With these initial successes, General Gough decided to delay the final attack on the town until his heavier artillery could be brought into position. By 27 May everything was ready for the final assault, but operations were again suspended at the request of Captain Elliott for further negotiations with the Chinese officials. The talks achieved a measure of success and the Chinese agreed to pay an indemnity of \$5 million and to withdraw all their troops from Canton. Gough then agreed to withdraw British troops.

After their withdrawal to the



*Simkin watercolour showing an officer of the 98th Regiment.*

base at Hong Kong, the British forces, both naval and military, were again badly affected by disease, drastically reducing their active strength. The arrival of the 55th Regiment (The Westmoreland Regiment) in Hong Kong was therefore timely. In August also a new Trade Commissioner, Sir Henry Pottinger, arrived in Hong Kong, plus a new naval Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir William Parker. The arrival of these new appointees gave more support to General Gough in his wish to take more effective offensive action and ensure a speedy conclusion to hostilities. As evidence of this support and co-operation, the joint commanders and Sir Henry Pottinger agreed on plans for an operation to capture Amoy.

For this operation a force of 2,700 troops was embarked in four steam-driven transport ships and, with an escort and support group of two Line-of-Battle ships and seven frigates and sloops, the convoy left Hong Kong on 21 August to arrive off Amoy on 25 August. The port was found to be strongly defended. A heavy naval bombardment by the ships of the Royal Navy made little impression on the defence walls built of granite. This did not deter General Gough whose reconnaissance of the

*Print from an original drawing by Captain W. Wallace of the 98th Regiment showing two grenadiers acting as skirmishers. Uniforms and equipment are largely unchanged since the Napoleonic Wars.*







*Belt plate of the 98th Regiment. This pattern was in use from 1830 to 1855.*

port showed that the troops could be landed in a position to outflank the main defences. This plan was successfully carried out and Amoy was captured on the same day, with minimal British casualties.

Leaving a small army garrison and a naval presence at Amoy, General Gough moved his troops on to Chusan, which was easily captured on 1 September. The capture of Tinghai followed on 29 September. Using Chusan as their base, Gough and Parker next directed their forces to an attack on the town of Chinhai which, although heavily defended, was captured on 1 October. Ningpo fell to the British on 12 October. Small garrisons had to be left in each of the captured towns and ports and this seriously depleted General Gough's available strike force. It was convenient, therefore that the approach of winter brought a temporary end to operations. Indeed the winter months were only disturbed by a number of Chinese attempts, all unsuccessful, to recapture Ningpo and Chinhai.

In March 1842, General Gough received approval from the Governor-General in India to pursue operations along the Yangtse river to Nanking and Peking, a course of action that Captain Elliott and the previous

Naval Commander-in-Chief had resisted. The first step in mounting such operations required the capture of Chapu. By withdrawing elements of the garrisons from some of the previously captured towns, General Gough was able to embark a force of 2,200 men. The transports carrying these troops arrived off Chapu on 16 May 1842.

For the impending attack the troops were organised into three columns: **Right Column** — 18th Regiment, 49th Regiment and Madras Sappers and Miners; **Centre Column** — Section, 1st Company, 8th Battalion, Royal Artillery (recently arrived in China from England), 'B' and 'C' Companies, 2nd Battalion Madras Foot Artillery, 'D' Company, 3rd Battalion Madras Foot Artillery, and a detachment of the 36th Madras Native Infantry; **Left Column** — 26th Regiment, 55th Regiment and a detachment of Sappers and Miners.

Chapu was taken after four hours of heavy fighting, a strong defence being offered by a large group of Tartars who formed an integral part of the Chinese troops defending the town. After the town had been captured, the arsenals and seaward-facing defences were destroyed. The British then re-embarked and proceeded to the mouth of the River Yangtse, arriving there on 13 June and anchoring off Wusang. A land-



*Shako plate of the 98th Regiment. This pattern was in use from 1829 to 1844.*

ing was made here and the town was easily captured. The capture of Wusang opened the route to Shanghai which General Gough was able to occupy without any opposition on 19 June. Leaving a small garrison at Shanghai, the remaining troops were re-embarked to return to Wusang.

Considerable reinforcements had meantime reached General Gough. These were: 98th Regiment (Staffordshire); plus the 2nd, 6th, 14th, 39th and 41st Madras Native Infantry Regiments. From his available troops, General Gough was able to organise a three-brigade force for the advance on Nanking: **1st Brigade** (Major-General Lord Saltoun) — 26th Regiment, 98th Regiment and a detachment of the 31st Madras Native Infantry; **2nd Brigade** (Major-General Schoedde) — 55th Regiment, 2nd and 6th Madras Native Infantry, and a detachment of the 36th Madras Native Infantry; **3rd Brigade** (Major-General Bartley) — 18th Regiment, 49th Regiment and the 14th Madras Native Infantry. The artillery under Colonel Mongomerie comprised the 1st Company, 8th Battalion Royal Artillery; and the Madras Foot Artillery. With detachments of sappers and miners, this represented a total of about 7,000 troops.

The plan of attack required the Royal Navy to move a convoy of 40 transport ships and

26 Royal Navy ships, of which total only nine were steam-driven, 200 miles up the uncharted River Yangtse. This task was successfully accomplished, the whole convoy arrived safely and anchored off Chiang-Fu on 19 July. An early reconnaissance established that the Chinese had withdrawn most of their troops from the town and concentrated them in considerable numbers in two defensive entrenched positions to the south-west of the town. The British troops and their equipment were all landed by 7am on 21 July. Saltoun's Brigade had the task of neutralising the entrenchments whilst Schoedde's Brigade moved against the town defences. Bartley's Brigade was to be held in reserve.

The heat of the day was intense but, in spite of this, Saltoun's Brigade quickly carried the entrenchments with a flanking attack and dispersed the Chinese defenders. The attack on the town by Schoedde's Brigade was led by the 55th Regiment who stormed the town walls, capturing a section by the east gate which they opened to allow the 2nd Madras Native Infantry to enter the town. Bartley's Brigade had meanwhile been ordered to advance on the



town's western gate. The sappers with the brigade successfully blew the gate and the 18th and 49th Regiments entered the town, overcoming the remaining enemy resistance. British casualties at Chiang-Fu were heavier than in any of the previous actions — 144 in all, although many died from sunstroke rather than enemy action.

At dawn on 22 July, General Gough withdrew his forces to the nearby hills prior to their embarkation, which was effected on 29 July. The convoy resumed its journey up the River Yangtse, reaching Nanking on 9 August. Before the British needed to commit themselves to an attack on Nanking, Commissioners from the Emperor in Peking arrived at Nanking with authority to negotiate terms for a peace treaty. Again the Chinese attempted to delay matters and General Gough was obliged to send them a timely ultimatum to the effect that unless meaningful progress towards a peace was made, the attack on Nanking would proceed on 15 August. The ultimatum brought results and on 29 August a final peace agreement was signed. By the terms of the concluding treaty, the Treaty of Nanking, the Chinese agreed to pay reparations of £6 million to Britain; to cede Hong Kong Island to Britain; and to open the ports of Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai to trade. These became known as the Treaty Ports. The Chinese refused to accept the legality of the opium trade in the treaty, and this was to cause considerable prob-

lems for Anglo-Chinese relations within a few years.

The treaty terms negotiated were considered by Parliament in Britain to be satisfactory, indeed in some respects beneficial.

The First China War was not a memorable campaign for tactical or strategic reasons but it produced the results required by the politicians and was effectively conducted by the army and navy, often in spite of the political errors of the original British Trade Superintendent, and also in the face of difficult climatic conditions. The heat problem was also aggravated by the completely unsuitable uniforms worn by the British troops, little changed from the Napoleonic Wars.

In recognition of the campaign, authority for the issue of a campaign medal to troops engaged between 5 July 1840 and 29 August 1842 in China is contained in a General Order of January 1843. 'Her Majesty has been pleased to direct that Medals be granted to the officers and men of Her Majesty's and the Honourable East India Company's Naval and Military forces, without distinction, who took part in the most prominent events of the war...' The medal, designed by W. Wyon, is in silver, 1.45 inches in diameter. The obverse depicts the 'young head' of Queen Victoria, wearing a diadem, and the legend 'VICTORIA REGINA' round the circumference. The reverse depicts a trophy of arms around a central shield bearing the Royal Coat of Arms. A palm tree is in the background and the inscription 'ARMIS EXPOSCERE PACEM' is round the top of the medal. The word 'CHINA' and the date '1842' are in the exergue. The ribbon



suspension is by a plain straight nickel bar fastened to the medal. The ribbon is 1.5 inches wide, crimson with yellow edges. The medals were issued named in impressed Roman capitals.

A number of the regiments which participated were awarded the Battle Honour 'CHINA 1840'. These were the 18th (The Royal Irish Regiment); the 26th Regiment (The Cameronians); the 49th (The Berkshire Regiment); the 55th (The Border Regiment); the 98th (The North Staffordshire Regiment); and the 2nd Madras Sappers and Miners.

**MI**

#### Notes on the illustrations

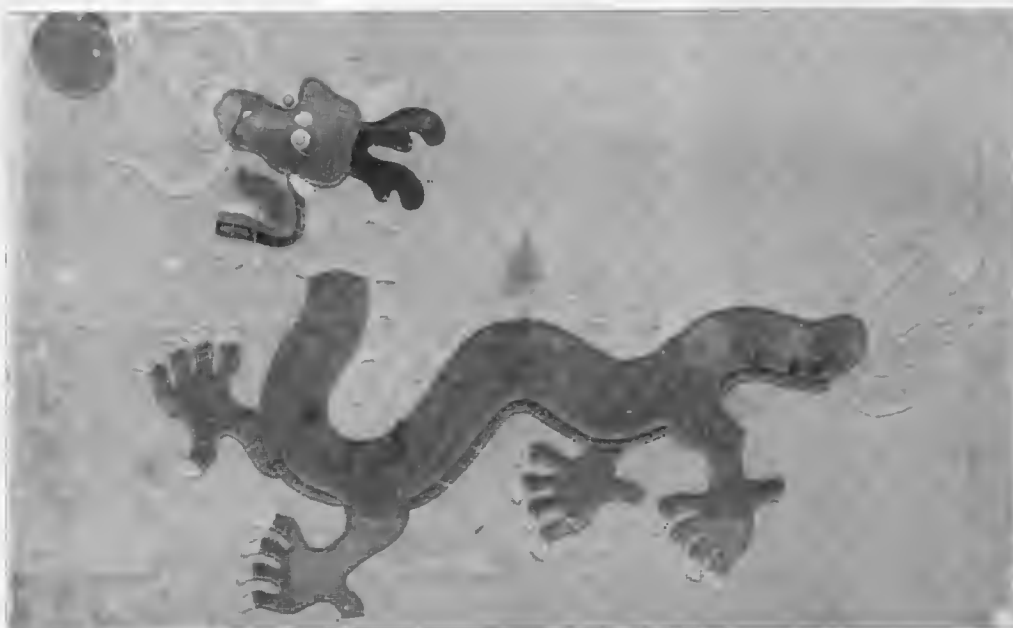
The first three illustrations are photographs of original water colours painted by Lieutenant White, RN, showing various actions during the First China War, in which the 55th (Westmoreland) Regiment was

*The obverse and reverse of the First China War Medal awarded to Gunner Edmond Joyce, Madras Artillery. (Private collection.)*

involved. The 55th Regiment was amalgamated with the 34th (Cumberland) Regiment in 1881 as part of the Cardwell Reforms, to become the two battalions of the Border Regiment. In the post-World War II army cutbacks, the Border Regiment was amalgamated with the King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment, which up to 1881 had been the 4th (The King's Own) Regiment. The combined Regiment is now The King's Own Royal Border Regiment. The watercolours are in the Regimental Museum which has a number of other interesting items from the First China War. It is located in St Mary's Tower, Carlisle Castle, and the Curator is Colonel (Retd) R. K. May, FMA., who has kindly agreed to the use of these illustrations.

The remaining illustrations with the exception of Gunner Joyce's medal are photographs of items in the Regimental Museum of The Staffordshire Regiment. The 98th Regiment was amalgamated with the 64th (2nd Staffordshire) Regiment in 1881 under the Cardwell Reforms, becoming the two battalions of The Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment. During the post-World War II army reductions, the North Staffordshire Regiment was amalgamated with the South Staffordshire Regiment which, in 1881, had been formed from the 38th (1st Staffordshire) Regiment and the 80th (Staffordshire Volunteers) Regiment, forming the present Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's). The Regimental Museum is located at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield. Major (Retd) R.D.W. McLean, the Regimental Secretary, has kindly agreed to the use of these illustrations.

*A Chinese flag captured by the 98th Regiment.*





# The King's Lifeguard of Horse

RECRUITING FOR the unit, which was treated as a regiment, though its normal establishment never approached the regulation strength of one, began in June 1642. By the time of the Battle of Edgehill (23 October) it consisted of two Troops, estimated at a total of 300 men. According to Sir Phillip Warwick, who served with the Lifeguard at this time, it was made up of 'Noblemen, Gentlemen and their attendance', with estates estimated at an annual value of £100,000 at 1642 values.

Because of the high proportion of nobility in its ranks, the choice of a commander for the Lifeguard was a delicate one. In the event, the post of Captain was given to the King's 21-year-old cousin, Lord Bernard Stuart, sixth son of the Duke of Lennox. He was famously described by the Earl of Calendon as 'a very faultless young man, of a most gentle, courteous and affable nature, and of a spirit and courage invincible'.<sup>1</sup> Though personally brave, there is nothing to suggest that Lord Bernard had any previous military experience, and his rashness displayed itself with unfortunate

*This standard is sometimes stated as being 'definitely' of the Lifeguard of Horse but in fact no direct attribution has yet been traced. However, the design does make it a distinct possibility.*

JOHN BARRATT Paintings by RICK SCOLLINS

IN THIS second article on the King's Lifeguard, we examine the uniforms and equipment of the Lifeguard of Horse and the Gentleman Pensioners, and see how they fared in the campaigns of 1642-45.

consequences on at least two occasions.

The first Troop to be formed was the King's Troop, which continued in existence throughout the unit's history. Its initial officers were probably: Captain Lord Bernard Stuart; Captain-Lieutenant Troilus Turberville; Cornet John Walpole; and Quartermaster Thomas Rutter.

Among the initial 'rank and file' were the Earls of Denbigh and Dover, Lord Capel, Sir Phillip Warwick, Sir Henry Newton, Sir Thomas Corbett and Charles Cavendish. The second Troop, commanded by Sir William Killigrew (1606-95), courtier and dramatist, was made up of the servants and other attendants of the personnel of the King's Troop.

Judging by their bitterly resented nickname of 'the Troop of Show', the King's Troop seems to have been lavishly equipped. As most of its members would have been able to afford the best of armour and equipment, it seems very likely that many of them were armed as cuirassiers. But if this was the case, it did not continue after the departure of most of

the nobility during the winter, and their replacement by men of somewhat humbler origins.

The Servants' Troop was always more basically equipped with headpiece, buff coat and/or back and breast plates, but they were initially better off than much of the rest of the Royalist horse.

Not part of the Lifeguard of Horse, but included here because of its short existence, are the Gentlemen Pensioners. Originally a basically honorific part of the royal bodyguard, and in many cases elderly men, at the beginning of the 1642 campaign they formed a 50-strong Troop under their Lieutenant, Sir William Howard. During the winter and spring the active personnel of the unit received commissions in other units or were merged with the Lifeguard of Horse, although some vestigial unit may have continued for a while longer.

## Colours

Less is known concerning the colours of the Lifeguard of Horse than is the case with the foot unit. One colour, probably that of the King's Troop, is known, and is illustrated. When the Lifeguard were providing personal escort to the King, the Royal Standard would also have been carried.

## Dress and equipment

On 27 January 1643, Dr Edmund Pierce 'beinge of the Kings garde' was issued with:

Backe	1
Breast	1
Headpeece	1
Gorgett	1 <sup>2</sup>

This outfit, described as 'an horse armor layde aside formerly for him', may be regarded as the basic armour of a trooper of the Lifeguard. He would also ideally have had a buff-coat, and would have carried the normal arms of a Harquebusier, or nominally 'light' cavalryman: broad sword, pair of pistols, frequently wheellocks, possibly a carbine as well. In

the early stages of the war at least, pole-axes were also popular weapons among the Royalist horse, though they never appear to have been regulation issue.

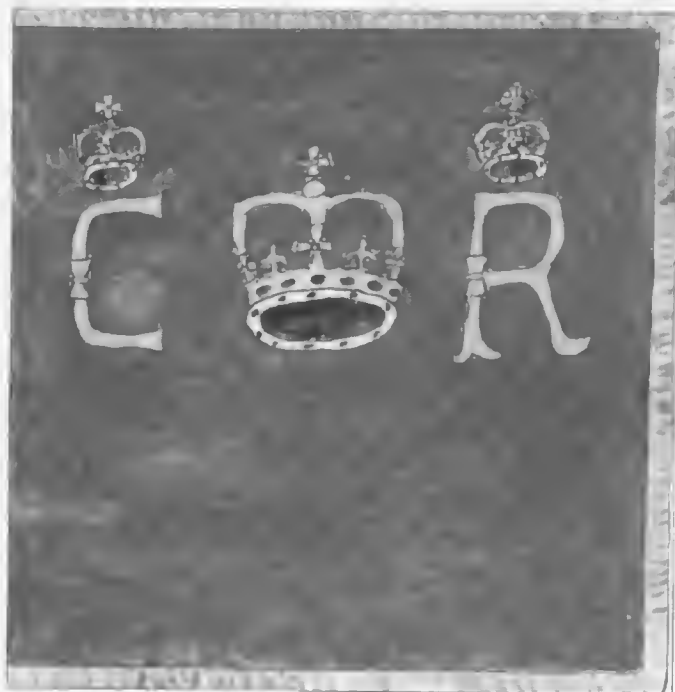
Other dress is somewhat problematic; all ranks would have worn the crimson identifying sash of the Royalist horse, but it is unclear whether they would, for example, have been dressed in red as were the Foot Guards, though it is possible.

## The 1642 Campaign

The hitherto somewhat pampered troopers of the Lifeguard got their first taste of the more uncomfortable realities of campaign life during the march of the Royalist Army from Shrewsbury to Edgehill in October. Lord Capel, a tall man, later recalled an incident which occurred near Bridgenorth. The King's Troop were quartered 'out of town at Sir William Whitmore's, a fair large house, which would have given my Lord the accommodation with the other Lords of a good feather bed. But my Lord went and tumbled in the straw in the barne with — I think — 100 gentlemen and slept very sound, and coming the next morning to Court, the King asked him, "my Lord, how did you like your bed the last night?" "Very well", says my Lord, "for since I came with your Majesty from York, I never before met with a bed long enough for me".<sup>3</sup>

On the morning of battle at Edgehill (23 October), the deployment of the Lifeguard exemplified some of the weaknesses of the Royalist Army. The normal post of the Lifeguard might have been expected to have been acting as escort to the King himself, or at least deployed in reserve. However the King 'had given leave unto his own Volunteer Guard of Noblemen and Gentlemen... for a vanity had posset that Troop, (upon a little provocation, or for a word of distaste the day before, or being called "The Troop of Show") to desire this honour of being engaged in the first charge'.<sup>4</sup>

The Lifeguard were therefore stationed in the first line of the Royalist right wing commanded by Prince Rupert, and protection of the king was left in the hands of the only reserve, the 50 men of the Gentlemen





Pensioners.

The Lifeguard, with the King's Troop stationed on the right of Rupert's first line, and with the Servants' Troop forming part of the second, played an important part in the Royalist charge. Lord Bernard Stuart gave his version in a letter written after the battle.

'They (the enemy) stood still all the while upon the hill expecting the charge so that we were fain to charge them uphill and leap over some 5 or 6 hedges and ditches. Upon our approach they gave fire with their cannon lined amongst their horse, dragooners, carabines and pistols, but finding that did nothing dismay the King's horse and that they came more roundly to them with all their fire reserved, just when our men charged they all began to turn head and we followed execution upon them for 4 miles together.'<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, the King's protection supposedly remained the responsibility of the Gentlemen Pensioners, who quickly found events passing out of their control. A counter-charge by two enemy regiments of horse led by Sir William Balfour broke through the Royalist centre, captured some guns, and headed towards where the King, his sons and assorted courtiers, plus the Gentlemen Pensioners were stationed. Two of the courtiers refused to take the Princes to the rear, and eventually the King was forced to give an 'absolute command' to Sir William Howard, commanding the Gentlemen Pensioners, to do so. This left the King with only a few courtiers as escort, though he succeeded in taking refuge with some of the foot. The Pensioners, escorting the Princes reluctantly to the rear, became involved in a brief skirmish with some of Balfour's horse, during which one Pensioner, Miles Mathews, felled an opponent with a pole-axe. By the time that the Lifeguard, with the rest of the horse, straggled back to the field, fighting was effectively over, and the battle drawn.

The Lifeguard will have accompanied the King during the remainder of the campaign, which culminated in the 'stand-off' at Turnham Green, and accompanied him into winter quarters at the new Royalist 'capital' of Oxford.

#### 1643

The winter of 1642-43 saw the Lifeguard undergo considerable changes in personnel as many of its original members

left either to raise formations of their own or encourage the Royalist war effort in their own localities. The evidence suggests that their replacements tended to be gentry rather than nobility.

Possibly in part because of his narrow escape at Edgehill, and also because of several 'security scares' during the winter, protective measures for King Charles were tightened. It may be because their duties henceforward required them to stay close to the King himself, that there is no record of any part played by the Lifeguard in the numerous engagements of 1643. It may be taken as certain that they were present in April at the attempt to relieve Reading, and the campaigns of Gloucester and First Newbury. It would be surprising if they saw no action on the latter occasion, but no details are known. Fortunately, from the following year onwards, the evidence is much fuller.

#### The 1644 Campaigns

One of the new intake of recruits for the Lifeguard for the 1644 campaigning season was Richard Symonds, of Black Notley, Essex. Symonds was typical of the minor gentry who now seem to have made up a large proportion of the Lifeguard, his father being a fairly minor official of the Chancery Court. Symonds had been imprisoned in March 1643 as a delinquent, but had escaped by late October, and enlisted with the Lifeguard.

Of great value to any historian of the Lifeguard, and indeed of the Royalist Army in general, is the 'Diary' which Symonds kept during the next two years. Although Symonds was at times annoyingly (for the military historian) more interested in genealogy and church monuments than the details of campaign life, he does give some useful insights.

From the opening of the campaign, which began in June with the King's hasty departure from an Oxford threatened by the united Parliamentary armies of the Earl of Essex and Sir William Waller, the King's Troop had the main responsibility for protecting the King himself. The Troop would quarter each night either with or close by Charles, and it may be assumed that a detachment would have stood guard at his quarters, whilst the remainder would join him in time for the day's march.

Having accompanied the King in his rapid marches and countermarches of June 1644,



the Lifeguard saw action at Cropredy Bridge on 28 June. The Royalist forces were marching along the western bank of the River Cherwell, watched by Sir William Waller's forces on the opposite bank. Seeing a gap develop among the Royalist troops, Waller launched an attack. Symonds takes up the story.

'A party of horse of the enemy came over the river and charged our reare of foot, about

*Rick Scollins' painting shows a Lifeguardsman wearing the triple-barred 'lobster' helmet, back and breast over sleeveless buff coat, carbine on a sling and non-regulation elbow gauntlet for the bridle hand.*

one or two of the clock. The Lord Wilmot, who was behind them keeping of that passe next Banbury, fell upon them, and after divers skirmishes, horse against horse, some few of



them killed, the enemy retreated, but ere they retreated the King's troope was drawne up by the Lord Bernard, very near the Enemy. Whilst our Horse thus faced the enemy at the furthest passe, fourteen cannon shot was shott at us, some and most flew over us, some at least as much short. None of us hit. Then came the Kinge at about five of the clock and drew us off on the top of the hill between two passes, our foot and theires all the while shooting.<sup>6</sup>

The battle ended in a decided Royalist success, which brought about the effective disintegration of Waller's Army and left the King free to march into the West Country in pursuit of the Earl of Essex.

In mid-August, as the Royalist forces closed in around the Earl of Essex's army, trapped around Lostwithiel, the Lifeguard was re-organised. Added to it was the Queen's Troop commanded by Captain Edward Brett, which had escorted the Queen to Exeter in April.

The approach of the Earl of Essex's forces had caused the Queen and her escort to make another hasty retreat, this time into Cornwall, and the Royal party had embarked on 14 July at Falmouth for refuge in France. Brett, after serving with Sir Richard Grenville's Cornish forces, joined the Lifeguard, the Queen's Troop possibly absorbing the remains of the Servant's Troop. Brett was made Major of the Regiment. The names of the other officers are uncertain, though Samuel Pepy's son-in-law, Captain St Michael, (a Frenchman) is a possibility, whilst the Quartermaster seems to have been one John Deale.

As operations around Lostwithiel continued, the Lifeguard provided close escort for the King over several days as he observed the action, often from close quarters. On Saturday 17 August, both Troops were with King Charles at Lord Mohun's manor house at Llanteglos, half a musket shot across the river from Parliamentary-held Fowey. The Royal party came under fire, a fisherman being killed at the side of the King.

The Royalists were steadily tightening their grip on Essex, and by 31 August, they were ready to strike the decisive blow. The Lifeguard had an important role to play in this; Symonds, a participant, provides the fullest description of events as the Royalists closed in for the kill, whilst the discouraged Parliamentarians fell back on Fowey, their retreat marked

by a trail of abandoned guns and ammunition.

On 2 September, trapped and despairing of relief, the Earl of Essex's foot surrendered in the greatest Royalist success of the war.

A significant change in status had occurred for the Lifeguard during the course of the Lostwithiel operations, which explains Goring's somewhat diffident advice to Lord Bernard Stuart during the action of 31 August. On 20 August a commission had been issued appointing Lord Bernard Stuart Captain General of 'all his Majestie's horse guards', answerable only to the King. How far this was connected with the alleged treachery of Lord Wilmot, and general restlessness among the horse can only be conjectured.

The victorious Royalists marched back eastwards, and on 27 October were engaged at Newbury by the combined armies of Waller, Essex and the Eastern Association. The outnumbered Royalists should in theory have been doomed, but bungled enemy operations combined with fierce resistance by the King's men salvaged the situation. The Lifeguard saw action when about 500 Parliamentary horse advanced between Newbury and the village of Speen 'where the King's Lifeguards and Sir Humphrey Bennet's Brigade were drawn up'. The Royalists claimed that Bennet carried out a tactical withdrawal to more suitable ground for horse, and 'having attained the ground he aimed at, and his own Regiment drawn up, he roundly charged the Rebels, (the rest of his Brigade being not then ready) and was so bravely seconded by the most Valiant the Lord Bernard Stuart, who fell upon their Flank, that those Rebels both Horse and Foot were totally routed.'<sup>7</sup>

On the night after the battle, the Lifeguard escorted the King on his dangerous night march to link up with Prince Rupert.

Although the Lifeguard were at the Relief of Donnington Castle on 9 November, if Newbury was their last serious action of 1644. They were involved in an internal command dispute when Prince Rupert briefly threatened to resign unless given command over the Lifeguard. The situation was resolved, and a few days later (23 November) some of the Lifeguard had a final taste of action before going into winter quarters. 'Prince Rupert with a commanded party of the

King's troope, and as many out of each of the other two, and a party commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, gave a strong alarme to Abingdon, then under the government of Browne the faggot-monger. Skirmishing on both sides; little hurt. They came out in four bodyes, neare 200 horse.'<sup>8</sup>

### The 1645 Campaigns

The campaigning season opened inauspiciously for the Royalists with Cromwell's large-scale raid of April around Oxford. On the 26th, Symonds wrote, the Lifeguard were at Islip; 'when we had drawn out and marched, newes came that the enemy was gone. We returned to our severall quarters. At seven of the clock the Queenes troope of Lifeguard was beate up, and 60 horses taken, but 6 men.'<sup>9</sup>

This was a further blow for Lord Bernard Stuart, who was currently engaged in trying to negotiate with Sir Samuel Luke, the Governor of Newport Pagnell, for the exchange of his commissary, Captain John Chavaorth, and his surgeon's mate, Benjamin Gill.<sup>10</sup>

Their plans disrupted by Cromwell's operations, the Royalists were not able to take the field until 8 May. Once more the gentlemen of the Lifeguard bore their share of the hardships of campaign life. On 15 May, passing through Warwickshire, Symonds wrote, 'We marched from four in the morning till six, sans rest.'<sup>11</sup>

At the end of the month, as the Royalists stormed Leicester, Symonds gives the organisation of the Lifeguard as being two troops, totalling 130 men. But on the fateful day of battle at Naseby on 14 June, the strength of the Lifeguard, which was with the reserve, totalled 500, for it had been reinforced numerically, if in no other way, by large numbers of courtiers. It is usually assumed that the Lifeguard played little part in the fighting, being caught up in the confusion of contradictory orders which prevented the King from leading his reserve in a last desperate charge against Cromwell's horse. But there is some evidence to suggest that some of the Lifeguard may have launched an unsuccessful charge against Okey's dragoons.

The Lifeguard accompanied the King during the increasingly desperate marches and countermarches which filled the remainder of the summer. They were with him in South Wales, and some of the King's troop distinguished themselves in the

capture of Huntingdon on 24 August.

The Lifeguard was reorganised again during the summer. The Royalist garrison of Carlisle had surrendered on 7 July, and elements of the garrison had marched south to join the king. Some of these were organised into Sir Thomas Glemham's Troop (commanded by Sir Henry Stradling) and added to the Lifeguard. A further troop, the Earl of Lichfield's (to which title Lord Bernard Stuart had recently been raised) under a Scotsman, Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon, and including many Scots officers, possibly reformadoes, was also created. On 7 August Symonds estimated the Lifeguard at 300 men. By 23 September they were 200 strong.

On 26 September, at the battle of Rowton Heath near Chester, the Lifeguard suffered a final disaster. They were part of the reserve, commanded by Lord Gerrard, which sortied from the town in support of Sir Marmaduke Langdale's horse. They became embroiled in a running and confused fight near the outworks and entrenchments in the suburbs, and here 'the Earl of Litchfield, charging more gallantly than advisedly, was unfortunately slain'. The King bore his death 'with extraordinary grief'. Some 20 gentlemen of the King's troop were among the prisoners.

What remained of the Lifeguards made their way with the King to Newark, where Lord Bellasis was briefly appointed Captain General. The last known operation of the Lifeguard was to escort the King back to Oxford, during which Captain Lieutenant Troilus Turberville was killed in action.

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### Notes

1. Clarendon, *The History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England*, IX, p119.
2. Ian Roy (ed), *Royalist Ordnance Papers, 1642-46*, Part I (1964), p193.
3. H.M.C., 'Beaufort Mss 12th Report', p39.
4. Peter Young, *Edgehill 1642* (1967), p281.
5. *ibid.*
6. Stuart Peachey (ed), *Richard Symonds: The Complete Military Diary* (Partizan Press, 1989), p13.
7. Sir Edward Walker, *Historical Discourses* (1701), pp700-701.
8. Symonds, *op cit*, p41.
9. *ibid.*, p43.
10. H.M.C., IP4, 'Letterbooks of Sir Samuel Luke' (1963) items 547, 1247, 1249.
11. Symonds, *op cit*, p47.



Rick Scollins' reconstruction shows a pensive member of the King's Lifeguard of Horse in traditional dress of 'lobster' helmet with single nasal guard, buff-coat and back and breast, bucket-topped boots and a carbine as well as his pistols and sword. It is the quality of his equipment which principally distinguishes him from the less wealthy members of other cavalry regiments, and the red sash proclaims his allegiance.





# British Troops on Campaign, 1775-81

GERRY EMBLETON and  
PHILIP HAYTHORNTHWAITE  
Illustrations by GERRY EMBLETON

ON CAMPAIGN, uniform regulations are often flouted or amended, primarily for reasons of comfort, convenience and availability of materials. The regiments involved in the American War of Independence certainly chose to make the best of things.

NUMEROUS STUDIES have covered the regulation uniform of the British Army worn during the American War of Independence, but only a small number of contemporary sources detail the modifications of uniform for campaign use, adopted for reasons of practicality or necessity. Although this article is in no way comprehensive, by use of illustrated reconstructions of typical campaign uniforms, it is possible to indicate the change of appearance occasioned by the rigours of campaign.

Fig. 1 illustrates the regulation dress of the infantry, in battalion company privates of the 15th (left) and 40th Regiments. The general appearance of this uniform is well-known: a red coat with regimentally-coloured collar, lapels and cuffs, white lining and turn-backs (buff for buff-faced regiments), white-metal buttons and buttonholes bound with regimentally-coloured lace: white waistcoat and breeches and black knee-gaiters, often with stiff tops; and a tricorn hat, the shape and decoration of which provided a little scope for regimental styling, as sometimes commented upon in the Inspection Returns. For the regiments illustrated, the 15th had yellow facings and lace (as specified in the 1768 Clothing Warrant) white with a red stripe on the inner edge of each loop, and a black and yellow 'worm' on the outer edge; the 40th had buff facings, and lace with a red inner and black outer stripe<sup>1</sup>.

A number of sources detail the equipment issued to each man, and although variations exist, typical lists were given by Thomas Simes in his *Military Guide for Young Officers* (1772) and *Military Instructor for Non-Commissioned Officers* (1778): 1 coat, 1 waistcoat, 1 hat and cockade, 1 pair cloth and 1 pair ticking breeches, 3 shirts, 2 white and 1 black

stock, 1 pair brass stock-clasps, 3 pairs white yarn stockings, 2 pairs oiled linen socks, 2 pairs shoes, 2 pairs black linen gaiters (white for Guards), 1 pair black long gaiters (1772 list only), 1 pair half-gaiters, 2 pairs white linen gaiter-tops (1778 only), 1 pair black leather gaiter-tops, 1 pair linen drawers, 1 forage cap ('red cap' 1772: presumably made from a previous year's coat), 1 knapsack, 1 haversack, 1 pair shoe-buckles, black leather garters with 1 pair buckles, 1 ball pipeclay, 1 oil bottle, 1 brush and picker (for the musket-lock), 1 worm, 1 turnkey, 1 hammer cap and 1 muzzle-stopper. Other items might include clothes- and shoe-brushes, 'blackening ball' (shoe- and cartridge-box polish), comb, canteen, musket and accoutrements, cartridge-box and bayonet belts, and items like blankets and mittens are also mentioned in contemporary sources.

The knapsack was rectangular, and opened out to reveal several internal pockets, constructed to keep shoes and cleaning-materials separate from clothing (according to Bennett Cuthbertson's *A System for the Compleat Interior Management and Oeconomy of a Battalion of Infantry*, Dublin, 1768.) It might be made of painted canvas, or hide tanned with the hair on; Cuthbertson recommended white goatskin with whitened shoulder-straps (more comfortable than a strap across the breast), although dark hide knapsacks were also known. (The captain of the 30th's light company fell foul of one of these: due to his short-sightedness he prodded a dog which he thought was a knapsack, and apologised to the animal when it growled at him!)<sup>2</sup>

Cuthbertson recommended the haversack be made of strong, coarse grey linen, and



Campaign uniform of the 42nd Highland Regiment. (Gerry Embleton/Parks Canada.)

used to carry provisions; being classed as part of the camp-equipage, he stated that exactness of pattern was unimportant, provided that it was marked with the name, company and regiment of the owner.

The cartridge-box Cuthbertson recommended be made of stout, blackened calf-skin, with

painted linen internal flaps to exclude rain, the interior pierced with 36 holes for cartridges, considered a sufficient quantity and thus obviating the use of an extra pouch sometimes worn around the waist, which was described as not only inconvenient but 'productive of mischief' if it blew up from stray sparks. Some regiments ornamented their cartridge-boxes with metal badges; a type of which several examples are known was a



voided crowned circle or oval bearing the regimental number within, probably usually with coloured cloth backing; that of the 15th illustrated is based upon an example found at White Plains.

The cartridge-box belt was whitened buff leather, worn over the left shoulder; the bayonet was carried in a frog on a slightly narrower belt around the waist (swords for rank-and-file of battalion companies had been abolished in 1768), under the coat; but it became increasingly fashionable to wear this over the right shoulder. This practice was apparently not made official until 1784 (when the width of the two belts was equalised to present a more uniform appearance), but it was used on campaign at least from the Seven Years' War, and was recommended by Cuthbertson as not only improving appearance and removing the inconvenience of having the bayonet at the front where it could interfere with the musket, but also was much more comfortable in removing the restriction about the waist. (Cuthbertson noted that this transfer necessitated two pence worth of work upon the belt, but no extra leather, and required an amendment in the 'fix-bayonets' drill — drawing with the left instead of right hand, then transferring the bayonet to the right — but was well worth the effort.)

The 40th private in Fig. 1 illustrates a typical active service appearance, including the use of a canteen and amended legwear. Half-gaiters which extended only to mid-calf were ordered for light infantry in 1771, but were worn by other companies, especially on campaign, as preferable to the full-length spatterdashes.

Light infantry companies were ordered for each battalion from December 1770, with certain uniform distinctions, most notably the use of short jackets and caps of various regimental styles, from cut-down tricornes to elaborate, combed leather helmets; light company waistcoats were usually red, belts were sometimes in black or buff leather instead of the prescribed tan, and additional equipment included such items as cartridge-boxes on waistbelts, and tomahawks. In North America, however, the conditions of service resulted in a number of modifications, in which practicality superseded appearance.

The costume of two composite light battalions (formed by extracting the specially-trained

light infantry from their original battalions) is depicted in paintings dated 1782, of the actions at Germantown (4 October 1777) and Paoli (21 September 1777) — the 2nd Light Battalion was engaged at the latter — which it has been speculated may have been executed for a British officer who was present, and who transmitted details of the action and the uniforms worn to the

brimmed 'round hat' with one side upturned, perhaps made from the ordinary hat. The hats of the light infantry are shown ornamented with an animal-tail; the 40th, shown in the Germantown picture, are dressed in the same style save for their hats having a small red feather or tuft (also shown in the Paoli picture). The light infantry have black leather equipment and apparently



Light infantry wearing cut-down coats, Indian leggings and hats converted into caps; a detail from a view of Ticonderoga, 1777. (British Museum.)

artist. Saverio della Gatta<sup>1</sup>.

The very practical dress depicted consists of a plain, single-breasted, short-tailed coat or sleeved waistcoat.

One-piece 'gaiter-trousers' were worn (common for all troops in warm climates), and a

carry canvas knapsacks. This uniform is shown in Fig 2.

An even more expert corps was formed for Burgoyne's expedition, by selecting one man from each company of his British infantry, to be assembled into a 'corps of marksmen' 100 strong (Burgoyne had ten regular regiments, each of ten companies). In a memorandum of 30 August 1776<sup>4</sup> it was stated that such men should be selected for their strength, activity and marksmanship,

that each should be provided with a good firelock, and that each man was to discover by test-firing exactly what quantity of powder propelled the ball most accurately and furthest, for his particular weapon; and that each man's cartridges were to be made up accordingly, to the specifications particular to each individual weapon. Tomahawks were also issued.

This corps, together with 'Monin's Volunteers' (evidently a Canadian unit) was to act as flank protection to the advance brigade. Captain Alexander Fraser of the 9th (later 20th) Foot was proposed as company commander, as he was already serving with Burgoyne's composite light infantry battalion. A representation of their uniform features in John Graham's painting of 'The Burial of General Fraser' at Saratoga, on the evening of 8 October 1777 (Fig 3). Brigadier-General Simon Fraser was mortally wounded on the previous day, and buried in the evening. In the forefront of Graham's painting is the general's nephew, Alexander Fraser, wearing a very distinctive light infantry dress, including an extremely short jacket, headed Indian leggings, moccasins, and a very short, guard-less hanger (or bayonet?) on his shoulder-belt.

Even greater modifications were recorded during the war: American accounts of 1776 describe what are styled British regular light infantry wearing American hunting shirts and leggings, and shortly after Brandywine a British officer described how a severe rain-storm soaked the cartridges not only of the Americans, but also the British light infantry, by reason of the latter using mostly rebel accoutrements<sup>6</sup>. Marksmanship, however, was not the only skill required of such light troops: at Paoli the attack was delivered with unloaded muskets, with even flints removed to ensure the attack had to be pressed rapidly with the bayonet, hence the nickname 'No-Flint' bestowed upon the British commander, General Charles Grey. Burgoyne's Order Book on 20 June 1777 confirmed the tactic: 'Men of half (your) bodily strength and even Cowards may be (your) match in firing; but the onset of Bayonets in the hands of the Valiant is irresistible... It will be our glory and preservation to storm wherever possible'.

Fig 4 illustrates another flank company distinction, and a campaign modification.





**Left: Fig 1**  
The soldier and his equipment; battalion company privates of the 15th (left) and 40th Regiments. (Gerry Embleton.)

**Below left: Fig 2**  
Light infantry in the uniform designed for North American service. (Gerry Embleton.)

**Bottom: Fig 3**  
'The Burial of General Fraser', Saratoga, 8 October 1777; painting by John Graham. Alexander Fraser of the Light Infantry kneels by the body; Rev Brudenell (the chaplain) reads the service; behind him stands Burgoyne in a red coat, faced blue, and next to him Major-General Phillips of the Royal Artillery (in blue, faced red); the officer with hands clasped is Captain Charles, Viscount Petersham of the 29th (in red, faced buff), and at the extreme right is General Baron Friedrich Adolphus Riedesel, commander of the Brunswick contingent (in blue coat). (National Army Museum.)

**Right: Fig 4**  
Battalion and grenadier company privates, 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers, in campaign uniform. (Gerry Embleton.)







Below: Fig 5  
Gunner, Royal Artillery, in the  
uniform modified when  
serving with Burgoyne's army.  
(Gerry Embleton/Parks  
Canada.)

Above: Fig 6  
Battalion company private,  
24th Regiment, in campaign  
uniform. (Gerry Embleton.)





Grenadiers were distinguished by cloth shoulder-wings (the 1768 Clothing Warrant specified round wings, with six loops as on the button-holes and a laced lower edge), and fur caps with a metal front-plate and grenade-badges at the rear. Similar caps, slightly lower and without the grenade, were worn by other companies of the fusilier regiments, of which one is illustrated here. The 23rd (Royal Welch Fuzileers) wore blue facings, and lace with red, blue and yellow stripes. The standing figure wears gaiter-trousers, a 'round hat' made from an ordinary tricorn, and has fastened over the lapels and lowered the skirts of his coat for extra warmth. (Head-dress was not always of the prescribed pattern: in 1770, for example, the 23rd was reported as having old-pattern caps [ie cloth mitres], with officers, drummers and fifers wearing hats).

The expedient shown was not the only protection against the North American winter. Although 'watchcoats' were normally only provided for the use of sentries (thus not issued to each man), a more general issue was made in the winter of 1776-77, all troops being provided with blanket coats and leggings, woollen or fur caps, and mittens. The coats are described as made of white wool, trimmed and bound with light blue, the pattern being shown in a series of sketches of Burgoyne's army; they fastened at the front with three bows of blue braid, with blue binding and a hood also bound with blue<sup>2</sup>.

The caps were either of a Canadian knitted stocking-cap style with tassel, or (as shown in the above-mentioned illustration, or red cloth, and presumably made from remnants of old uniforms as mentioned

earlier) with fur head-band and an animal-tail hanging at the rear. The more usual type of watchcoat was also of unregulated pattern, Cuthbertson recommending blue 'Huzzar cloaks' with a cape sufficiently large to cover the head, and marked with company identification in large red letters under the cape to prevent one company's coats being appropriated by another.

Light infantry-style uniform modifications extended beyond that service; all regiments of Burgoyne's army were ordered to cut their coats short and convert their caps into caps, so that the entire force resembled light infantry, a style far better suited to the circumstances of campaigning. Included in the drawings mentioned above is a member of the 62nd, who wears a light dragoon-style cap with horsehair mane (conceivably the regimental light company cap instead of a converted hat?), and even an artilleryman, as in fig 5, who wears his ordinary uniform (blue coat faced red, yellow lace) with skirts cut short, and a cap which appears to have a brass comb and red horsehair plume.

Fig 6 conveys an impression of the degeneration of uniform during a particularly arduous campaign: illustrated is a battalion company private of the 24th, one of Burgoyne's regiments, whose facings were willow green and lace with red and green stripes. The head-dress is an ordinary hat with cut-down brim; in 1775 this regiment was noted as having its hats, light infantry caps and light infantry accoutrements not according to regulation.

Page 24 illustrates a known regimental alteration to regulation dress, that of the 42nd Highlanders. A manuscript note in a copy of a 1783 Army List<sup>3</sup> states that the 42nd, serving in North America, wore the same uniform as the ordinary infantry which had short coats, except that they retained the

Scottish bonnet; this is confirmed by the June 1784 Inspection Return (Halifax, Nova Scotia) which stated that for the campaigns in North America, the commanding officer had (with sanction of the Commander-in-Chief) decided to replace Highland dress with a more practical uniform. In addition to the short-tailed coats worn by Highlanders, legwear included white ticken trousers and short black gaiters in which the regiment was reviewed in 1784. The man illustrated has the short regimental coat (blue facings, 'bastion'-shaped white lace with red stripe), a plain bonnet with red/white/green diced band, gaiter-trousers and the blackened leather accoutrements used by Highland corps, including a frontal cartridge-box.

MI

#### Notes

1. Lace-designs are illustrated in *History of the Uniforms of the British Army*, C.C.P. Lawson, III (London, 1961) pp255-59; and in *British Military Uniforms 1768-96*, H. Strachan (London, 1975), plates 36-39, the latter photographs of actual samples.
2. This story is recounted in *Redcoats in the Caribbean*, James Aytoun, ed A.S. Lewis (Blackburn, 1984), p37.
3. See Lawson, *op cit*, III pp78-81.
4. Reproduced in *Some Evidence for Burgoyne's Expedition*, C.T. Atkinson, *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research*, XXVI (1948), pp134-35.
5. See *The Burial of General Fraser, Saratoga 1777*, W.Y. Carman, *S AHR XLVIII* (1970), pp63-65; the engraving by W. Nutter from this painting is reproduced in Strachan, *op cit*, plate 2.
6. The full reference appears in *British Light Infantry 1776-1777*, R. & P. Katcher, a plate in the *Military Collector and Historian* series.
7. Reproduced in *Armies of the American Wars 1753-1815*, P. Katcher (Reading, 1975), p60.
8. Quoted in *An Officer of the Black Watch in the American Revolution*, Rev P. Sumner, *SAHR XXVI* (1948), p78, which illustrates the officers' version of the uniform.

#### References

Much contemporary information appears in *History of the Uniforms of the British Army*, C.C.P. Lawson, Vols III-IV, London 1961-66; extracts from Inspection Returns and many other primary documentary and illustrated sources are in *British Military Uniforms 1768-96*, H. Strachan (London, 1975); and see also *Army Inspection Returns 1753-1804*, Rev P. Sumner, *SAHR III-VI* (1925-28). The 1768 Clothing Warrant is reproduced in Lawson III and Strachan (above).

THE HEADING statement was quite an admission, coming from one of those Confederate officers whose cavalry was the pride of the Southern forces, whose men had been virtually born in the saddle, and whose sabre ruled over every cavalry battlefield until Brandy Station in 1863. And, it was true.

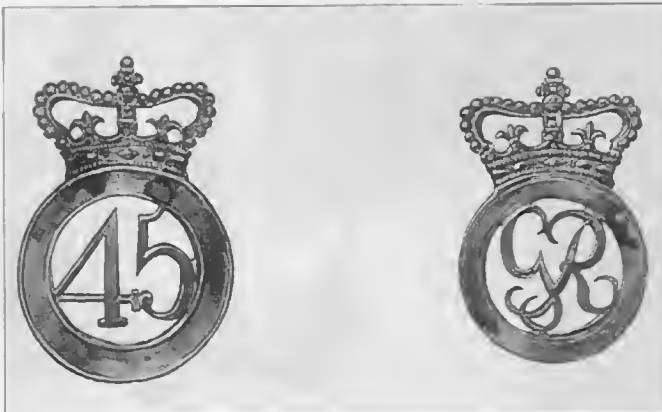
For, after years of training and perfecting their equipment, the Union cavalry came into its own by 1863, finally capable of taking on and beating the best the Confederates had to offer.

From the beginning, it was clear that the cavalry would be the choice for many men who sought membership in an élite outfit. There hung about the cavalry service a dash and excitement which attracted those men who had read and remembered the glorious achievements of "Light Horse Harry" (Lee) and his brigade and of "Morgan's Men" in the Revolutionary War," wrote a 1st Maine Cavalry veteran. "In short, men who read much in the history of fiction preferred the cavalry service... It may be... that it makes common men look dignified and imperious to sit on a horse. This is probably so, and may furnish the explanation why the cavalry service — certainly much harder than the infantry — has been sought after by so many men of means."

There were certainly more infantrymen than cavalrymen. Throughout the American Civil War, the US recruited 1,666 infantry regiments and only 258 cavalry regiments. If the many independent companies also raised were formed into regiments there would have been 1,696 infantry regiments with six infantry companies left over. There would have been only 272 cavalry regiments and two cavalry companies left over.

The regiment was the basic cavalry formation. Each volunteer regiment was to have between four and six squadrons of two companies each. Each company was to have a captain, a first and second lieutenant, a first (or orderly) sergeant, a company quartermaster-sergeant, four sergeants, eight corporals, two buglers, two farriers, two blacksmiths, a saddler, a wagoner and 56 privates. The regiment would also have a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a major, an adjutant (a lieutenant), a quartermaster (another lieutenant), an assistant surgeon, a chaplain, a sergeant-major, a regimental quartermaster-sergeant, a regimental commissary sergeant, a hospital

Cartridge-box badges: 45th Regiment (left) and Foot Guards (right). (Gerry Embleton.)





# The Union Cavalryman 1861-65

steward, two principal musicians, and 16 bandmen. The bandmen were released from service in July 1862 in a cost-cutting move.

## EQUIPMENT

One reason that the US Army recruited more infantrymen than cavalrymen was it cost too much more to equip the cavalry, on top of costs involved in acquiring horses.

On 17 August 1862, Company A, 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, submitted a requisition for the typical first issue of cavalry necessities. It called for 92 'caps complete cavalry, blouses [fatigue tunics], coats [ie, dress jackets], trousers, boots [pairs of], great coats, blankets, haversacks and canteens "& straps". As well, there were 184 flannel shirts,



PHILIP KATCHER

'DURING THE last two years no branch of the Army of the Potomac contributed so much to the overthrow of Lee's Army,' a Southern cavalry officer wrote during the 1864-65 campaign that saw an eventual Union victory, 'as that of the cavalry, both that which operated in the Valley of Virginia and that which remained at Petersburg.'

## Centre:

The cavalry enlisted man's cap badge, made of stamped brass.

## Below left:

This cavalry sergeant has a jacket with the collar made shorter than regulation and only one false buttonhole and button on it. These were commonly issued during the war. He also wears the regulation red worsted sash of a cavalry sergeant.

## Below middle:

A company-grade officer with the M1860 light cavalry sabre, presumably an officer's model, sash, and crossed sabres cap badge. The dark blue trousers were regulation until December 1861.

## Below right:

This cavalryman wears a plain dark blue uniform jacket. The uniform jacket came to a point at the front and back, while the so-called shell jacket or roundabout was cut evenly around the waist. Sometimes the names are mixed up by today's collectors.







**Above:**  
The cavalryman in the centre of this patrol is a lieutenant; the other two are other ranks in dress jackets complete with brass shoulder scales.

**Below:**  
An officer, left, and an enlisted man, the latter showing the braid on the back of the dress jacket.







Although this image has been damaged, nonetheless it shows the M1833 dragoon sabre and Remington pistol clearly. The M1833 was already obsolete during the war but old weapons were often pulled out of storage to be issued during the crisis of the war's early years.



The cap badge of the 6th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry Regiment was quite an elaborate affair. This man wears the four-button sack coat designed for fatigue wear. The cut of the collar suggests that this particular coat was produced by the Army Department's Schuylkill Arsenal in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Volunteers in the 6th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry Regiment after 1864 often wore plain dark blue blouses with a single chevron on each cuff in yellow, edged with red, which indicated veteran volunteer status, or one three-year service in the Army during the Civil War. Although faded, this image shows the stripe clearly.

pairs of drawers and pairs of stockings requisitioned.

In terms of company equipment, Company A needed two wall tents with poles, flies and ties, four pickaxes, and a descriptive book, sash (probably for the first or orderly sergeant), order book, clothing book, and morning book. Also, a dozen spades, axes, hatchets, and camp kettles. Finally, the company needed 30 mess pans, 17 'common tents', and two 'bugles with cords & tassels'.

In much the same way, Captain Hartman's Company of the 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry on 30 July 1861 requisitioned 76 blouses, flannel shirts, pairs of drawers, stockings, great coats, haversacks, canteens and straps, and two 'trumpets, cords & tassels'.

Such an issue would make a very uniform and well-dressed body of men. However, in the field, the cavalry was often less than ready for parades. The men, so recently civilians, wore as much what they wanted as what the Army required. For example, a circular dated 31 July 1864 was issued to the 2nd Iowa Cavalry saying, 'The regiment having been supplied with clothing, no article of citizens' apparel whatever will be allowed to be worn. All such clothing in possession of the men must be disposed of to-day. Company officers will make a

minute inspection of their Company quarters and men's knapsacks tomorrow morning, and all hats, coats and pants other than the prescribed uniform will be taken possession of and burned.' Obviously, the officers were at war with the civilian clothing their men liked to wear.

Even captured Southern clothing was worn, the 2nd Michigan Cavalry being ordered on 5 July 1864 not to wear 'the whole or part of the confederate uniform'.

## UNIFORM

### Headgear

There were two types of regulation headgear, one for dress and the other for fatigue.

The dress hat was made of black felt with a crown 6¼-inches tall, with a brim 3¼-inches wide. It was to be turned up on the left side, under a brass plate that depicted the US eagle, with ostrich feathers — three for field grade officers, two for company-grade officers, and one for enlisted men — on the other side. A yellow hat cord with two tassels was worn around the brim by enlisted men; a gold and black intermixed one by officers. A pair of crossed sabres was worn as a badge in front, embroidered gilt for officers and stamped brass for enlisted men. Officers wore their regimental number over their sabres, while enlisted

men wore both the number and a company letter.

In practice the dress hat was little worn. Many men preferred the fatigue, or forage, cap. This was made of dark blue wool, 'with a welt of the same around the crown, and yellow metal letters in front to designate companies'. The peak was black lacquered leather, as was the chinstrap. A plain brass buckle was worn on the chinstrap, although it served no useful function. Brass side buttons held the chinstrap on.

A study of Army of the Potomac cavalymen photographed in the field between mid-1862 and 1864 indicates that 60 per cent of them wore the cavalry crossed sabres cap badge on the tops of their forage caps. This compares to the some 37 per cent of infantrymen who wore their branch of service insignia on their caps, and indicates that cavalymen were especially proud of their branch of service and showed it whenever they could.

### Coats

According to 1861 regulations, the dress coat was 'a uniform jacket of dark blue cloth, with one row of twelve small buttons on the breast placed at equal distances; stand-up collar to rise no higher than to permit the chin to turn freely over it, to hook in front at the bottom, and to slope

the same as the coat-collar; on the collar on each side, two blind button-holes of lace, three-eighths of an inch wide, one small button on the button-hole, lower button-hole extending back four inches, upper button-hole three and a half inches; top button and front ends of the collar bound with lace three-eighths of an inch wide, and a strip of the same extending down the front and around the whole lower edge of the jacket; the back seam laced with the same, and on the cuff a point of the same shape as that of the coat, but formed of lace; jacket to extend to the waist, and to be lined with white flannel; two small buttons at the under seam of the cuff, as on the coat cuff; one hook and eye to the bottom of the collar; colour of lace (worsted), yellow for Cavalry.'

Musicians had the same jackets, 'with the addition of a facing of lace three-eighths of an inch wide on the front of the... jacket, made in the following manner: bars of three-eighths of an inch worsted lace placed on a line with each button six and one-half inches wide at the button, and thence gradually expanding upward to the last button, counting from the waist up, and contracting from thence to the bottom of the collar, where it will be six and one-half inches wide, with a strip of the same lace following the bars at their outer





*This cavalryman, armed with a Spencer carbine, wears a plain blue jacket, which was a commonly preferred albeit non-regulation dress item. His tall boots are also privately acquired.*

cuffs, and one false button-hole on the collar.

The jackets were to be worn with brass shoulder scales, plain for privates and corporals, with extra brass parts for sergeants, and three rows of six rivets each for regimental non-commissioned staffers. These were rarely worn in the field.

The jackets, however, were, with some 43 per cent of Army

of the Potomac cavalrymen wearing them in the field from mid-1862 until 1864.

Not every cavalryman, however, loved his jacket. Wisconsin cavalryman George W. Peck recalled receiving his first jacket, 'a small one, evidently made for a lump-backed dwarf. The jacket was covered with yellow braid. O, so yellow that it made me sick.'

Peck evidently preferred the fatigue blouse, described in regulations as: 'A sack coat of dark blue flannel extending half-way down the thigh, and made loose, without sleeve or body lining, falling collar, inside pocket on the left side, four coat

extremity — the whole presenting something of what is called the herring-bone form.' This lace, too, was yellow.

In practice, some clothing contractors made dress jackets that were issued with only ten buttons down the front, closed



*From the back, this cavalryman in the dress jacket has two cartridge boxes, the one in the centre of the back for carbine ammunition and the other one for pistol ammunition.*

*This corporal of cavalry has a cut-down dress hat and gloves which were commonly worn but not issued. The broad black strap across the chest with the brass buckle is the carbine sling.*



pockets down the front'. This was the most common cavalry field dress worn. Some 57 per cent of the Army of the Potomac enlisted cavalymen were photographed in these garments, while in the field.

Officers, on the other hand, were to wear 'a frock coat of dark blue cloth, the skirt to extend from two-thirds to three-fourths of the distance from the top of the hip to the bend of the knee; single-breasted for Captains and Lieutenants; double-breasted for all other grades'.

According to the 1861 regulations, as well, 'officers serving with mounted troops are allowed to wear, for stable duty, a plain dark blue cloth jacket, with one or two rows of buttons down the front, according to rank; stand-up collar, sloping in front as that of the uniform coat; shoulder-straps according to rank, but no other ornament'. In practice, officers often added yellow piping and even gold Austrian knots on the cuffs or these jackets.

The buttons, nine for the company-grade officers and seven in each row for field grade, bore the same eagle design as that worn by enlisted men. Instead, however, of the national shield, officers wore the letter 'C' in the centre of the shield on the eagle's chest.

### Trousers

Trousers, according to the 1861 regulations, were 'to be made loose, without plaits, and to spread well over the boot; to be re-enforced for enlisted mounted men'. This reinforcement was provided by a second layer of wool that was sewn inside the legs. According to the 1861 regulations, too, trousers were to be dark blue. In December 1861, however, this was changed to give all ranks sky blue trousers.

Rank was also indicated by trousers. Officers had a yellow welt inserted into the outer leg seam, while sergeants had a yellow 1½-inch stripe on their outer legs. Corporals had a half inch wide stripe on their trouser legs.

### Overcoats

Overcoats differed, too, for officers and enlisted men. Enlisted men wore overcoats 'of sky-blue cloth; stand-and-fall collar; double-breasted; cape to reach down to the cuff of the coat when the arm is extended, and to button all the way up...'.

Officers' overcoats were 'of dark blue cloth, closing by means of four frog buttons of black silk and loops of black silk cord down the breast and at the

throat by a long loop a *echelle*, without tassel or plate, on the left side, and a black silk button on the right'. The collar was also rise and fall, with a removable dark blue cape that reached the cuff. 'To indicate rank, there will be on both sleeves, near the lower edge, a knot of flat black silk braid not exceeding one eighths of an inch in width, arranged... as follows:' A colonel was to have five braids, while a first lieutenant had only one and each higher rank had an additional one. A second lieutenant had plain cuffs.

### INSIGNIA

Officer rank was otherwise marked by epaulettes for dress and shoulder straps, rectangular boxes of yellow bounded by gold embroidery with rank insignia inside, at all other times. These straps were 1½-inches wide by four inches long. A colonel wore a silver eagle in the centre of his; a lieutenant-colonel, an silver oak leaf at either end; a major, two gold oak leaves; a captain, two silver bars on either end; a first lieutenant, a single silver bar on each end; and a second lieutenant, no insignia within the borders.

Non-commissioned officers were marked with yellow chevrons worn above each elbow, points down. The sergeant major wore three bars and arcs; the quartermaster-sergeant, three bars and ties; the first sergeant, three bars and a diamond; the sergeant, three bars; and the corporal, two bars. Around 1863 company quartermaster-sergeants began using three bars and a single tie to mark their grade. Two ties marked a battalion quartermaster-sergeant. Saddlers, too, began unofficially using a saddle knife as their rank badge.

### ACCOUTREMENTS

The accoutrements each enlisted cavalryman carried were basically worn around the waist. They included a waistbelt with a cast brass buckle bearing the US eagle and a silver wreath and a cross-belt that hooked to the belt on the left side, passing over the right shoulder, to bear the sabre weight.

Three black leather pouches, a carbine cartridge box, a pistol cartridge box, and a percussion cap box, were carried on this waistbelt, along with a black leather holster for the man's revolver.

The carbine cartridge box was often carried, instead, on the carbine sling, a black leather sling some 2½-inches wide. This hung from the left shoulder

to the right hip, with a large brass buckle to adjust for different heights, and an iron hook to attach the carbine to.

These were fighting accoutrements. As well, each cavalryman had saddlebags for clothing; a painted black haversack for rations; and a wool-covered circular tin canteen for water.

### WEAPONS

The traditional cavalry weapon was the sabre and the US cavalryman had his choice of two of these. The M1840 heavy cavalry sabre was a copy of an earlier French sabre. It had a brass hilt with three branches, a wood grip wrapped in black leather with twisted brass wire around it, and a polished iron scabbard. Around 1858 a lighter version of this sabre, usually called the M1860 light cavalry sabre, appeared. It was virtually the same, save for a general reduction in dimensions.

Pistols had earlier been single-shot, muzzle-loading weapons, but revolvers had been taken into Army use during the Mexican-American War and were now general issue. The most common varieties were the 0.44 'Army' calibre Colt and Remington revolvers.

As private contractors made revolvers, they also made carbines. The most popular carbines at the beginning of the war used combustible cartridges of paper or linen with a falling breech block. These included those made by Sharps and Starr. Patented cartridge-type carbines rapidly joined this type and were issued as well. The Smith used a rubber carbine and was broken in the middle for reloading like a shotgun. The Burnside used a special brass cartridge.

Brass eventually became the standard carbine cartridge material, with the most popular carbine of the war being the Spencer. This used a magazine tube that was loaded through the stock and held seven rounds, the trigger guard being used to open the breech and reject the old cartridge as well as to reload the weapon.

In practice, most US cavalrymen fought on foot, with their carbines, leaving their sabres behind on their horses and their revolvers in their holsters.

### HORSE EQUIPMENTS

A complete set of cavalry horse equipment, according to the 1861 regulations, included a bridle, a watering bridle, a halter, a saddle, a pair of saddlebags, a saddle blanket, a surcingle, a pair of spurs, a curry comb, a horse brush, a picket



*A saddler wears the unofficial sleeve insignia of his grade on the dress jacket. (Richard Carlike collection.)*

pin and lariat, a link, and a nose bag when required.

According to Major Benjamin Crowinshield, 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, 'Much of the horse equipment was cumbersome and useless. In time of War, except on the plains, there was no need of lariat rope and picket pin. Even watering bridles were unnecessary. The heavy leather skirts of the saddle, intended to keep the coat from being soiled, were found useless. Towards the last of the War the men frequently used the saddle tree without skirts (they were easily unscrewed from the tree) and in order to make the saddle sit better, the men would put their own blankets under the saddle, over the horse blanket, and thus prevent a saddle gall, and at the same time carry their own blankets more comfortably.'

The saddle was the McClellan saddle, adopted in 1858. It was made around a wooden tree, covered with black leather, with a slit up the middle. This was used until 1938, giving some idea of its good design.

The bridle included a headstall, a bit, and a pair of reins. The bits featured bosses marked US; before the war they had been marked with regimental numbers.

Saddle blankets were dark blue with an orange stripe three inches wide and three inches in from each edge and an orange US in the centre. The blanket was 75 inches by 67 inches. **MI**



# The London Regiment, 1908-1937

RAY WESTLAKE

THE ORIGINS of the London Regiment lay in the Volunteer Force created for home defence in 1859. Corps were raised, organised and numbered within their counties (occasionally city or area) and each represented an independent and self governing body.

In 1860 the smaller corps (less than battalion strength) were organised into administrative battalions, but as such each retained its number and independent status. Subsequently Admin formations were given the opportunity to consolidate and form one single corps and some, but by no means all, chose this option. In 1880 a general reorganisation of the Volunteer Force saw the overall consolidation of all remaining Admin battalions into battalion strength corps.

*Recruit under instruction (Vickers), 1930s. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)*

IN ITS HEYDAY it was the largest regiment in the British Army, and took part in some of the most significant battles of the First World War. Here we examine its history in broad outline and look at its shoulder badges, but subsequent articles will deal with the dress and distinctions of individual battalions in more detail.

The following year, when territorial regiments were created out of the old Sub-District Brigades, these Volunteer Corps were placed into these regiments and eventually redesignated as numbered Volunteer Battalions. Not all corps, however, took on the new form of designation and some choose to retain their Rifle Corps titles.

During the South African war of 1899-1902, volunteers were given the opportunity to serve overseas, but only as members of the Regular Army,

volunteer formations as such not being permitted to take the field. Those accepting these conditions enlisted for a period of one year and usually joined their parent regiments in South Africa as part of a 'Volunteer Service Company'. In London a number of men served with the regiments associated with their battalion, but in the main Londoners enlisted into the City Imperial Volunteers, a war-raised formation especially created for service in South Africa. With an average of between 80-150 men from

each volunteer battalion overseas at various times, 'South Africa' battle honours bearing several dates were subsequently awarded and proudly borne on badges and appointments.

On 1 April 1908 Secretary of State for War Richard Haldane's Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill came into effect. Under its terms, the old volunteers were stood down (with effect from 31 March) and at once invited to enrol into the new Territorial Force. Britain's part-time soldiers were now organised into 14 divisions, each complete with its infantry and supporting arms, and the necessary Army Troops. Now the Auxiliary Forces, although in being for home defence only, were to be trained and equipped much the same as the Regulars and ready, if the need be, to be rapidly expanded, organised and embodied in time of war.

As far as the infantry were concerned the transfer of men from the Volunteer Force to the new system was in the main straightforward. In most cases existing volunteer battalions, hitherto forming part of a regiment but under a separate numbering system, simply became territorial battalions. Now, however, they were to be ranked and numbered on from the Regulars and Militia (now Special Reserve).

Since 1881 infantry regiments of the British Army had been territorially based and in most cases bore county titles. There were, however, a number of counties within England and Wales that had no Regular regiment and it was these that in 1908 were permitted to form new and independent county regiments made up entirely of Territorials, viz: Cambridgeshire, Herefordshire, Hertfordshire and Monmouthshire Regiments.

Whereas the creation of the new Territorial Force regiments was a fairly logical and uncomplicated affair as far as the above counties were concerned — eg, the Cambridgeshire Volunteers simply became the Cambridgeshire Regiment — it was a somewhat different situation in London. Created under the Local Government Act of 1888, the County of London had no Regular regiment, except that the Royal Fusiliers bore in its title 'City of London'. In fact the





County comprised, in addition to the City, parts of Middlesex, Surrey and Kent. The volunteers from these areas were therefore relevant, in respect of the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, to London and together with the units from the City provided the basis for the new London Regiment.

The London Regiment was unique within the history of the British Army in several ways. Whereas the other Territorial Force regiments all constituted part of the corps of a Regular regiment, the London Regiment at first did not, even though a glance at the titles and cap badges of several of the battalions would indicate past affiliations previously established in the volunteer days.

Although designated as a Regiment, which like others had within it numbered battalions, there was no common uniform or badge, depot or overall commander. In short the London Regiment was a collection of independent regiments all with no connection to each other except when under the higher formation of their brigades and divisions.

As a 'Regiment' its size in

respect of the number of battalions that it had was also unique. Twenty-six in peace-time and 88 during the Great War being the largest for any infantry regiment of the British Army.

The London Regiment was originally to contain 26 battalions. At first, however, the number intended was 28 but both the Honourable Artillery Company and Inns of Court Regiments, scheduled to be 26th and 27th Battalions respectively, chose not to have anything whatsoever to do with the new formation and continued service under their own names.

Their absolute refusal to have anything to do with the new regiment was based on previous service and seniority. In the case of the H.A.C. this was quite justified, its history going back far longer than most, if not all, Regular regiments, let alone the volunteers which, as 26th Battalion it would have been junior to. It followed that the Regiment did not fill the vacant numbers and served on with the gaps throughout its history.

Although there was a definite order of precedence within the Volunteer system, both among the various counties and the

corps within those counties, no regard for this was given when the London battalions were numbered in 1908. The 1st Battalion, London Regiment, was formed from the volunteer corps that previously held the 10th position in the Middlesex list. But the Queen Victoria's Rifles, the 1st Middlesex and ranked 2nd in the land, were only included as 9th Battalion. Likewise one of the Tower Hamlets Corps (ranked as 89th in the county list) became 4th Battalion, well above several Middlesex Corps (ranked 2nd), Surrey (4th) and Kent (26th).

To administer the London Regiment two Territorial Force Associations were set up: one, the City of London T.F.A. catering for the 1st-8th Battalions; and the other, the County of London T.F.A. which was responsible for the 9th-28th Battalions. As a result the 1st-8th bore 'City of London' in their titles while the 9th-28th had 'County of London'.

Turning to the higher formation in the London area, two divisions were created each comprising three infantry brigades with four battalions per brigade. **1st London**

**Division:** 1st London Brigade (1st-4th Battalions), 2nd London Brigade (5th-8th Battalions) and 3rd London Brigade (9th-12th Battalions). **2nd London Division:** 4th London Brigade (13th-16th Battalions), 5th London Brigade (17th-20th Battalions) and 6th London Brigade (21st-24th Battalions). The 28th Battalion was attached to the 2nd London Division as Army Troops and the remaining battalion, the 25th, was unattached.

Shortly after the outbreak of war in August 1914 Territorial battalions formed a 2nd Line and subsequently, a 3rd Line. In the case of the 1st-4th Battalions of the London Regiment, a 4th Line was also raised. To distinguish the new battalions numerical prefixes were placed before the numbers and it followed that an original unit became, eg 1/1st Battalion, while the new war formations became 2/1st, 3/1st and 4/1st.

By the end of 1916 battalions other than 1st and 2nd Line had been constituted as Reserve battalions (eg 1st (Reserve) Battalion), and were to provide trained drafts to their 1st and 2nd Line counterparts then

Fig 1

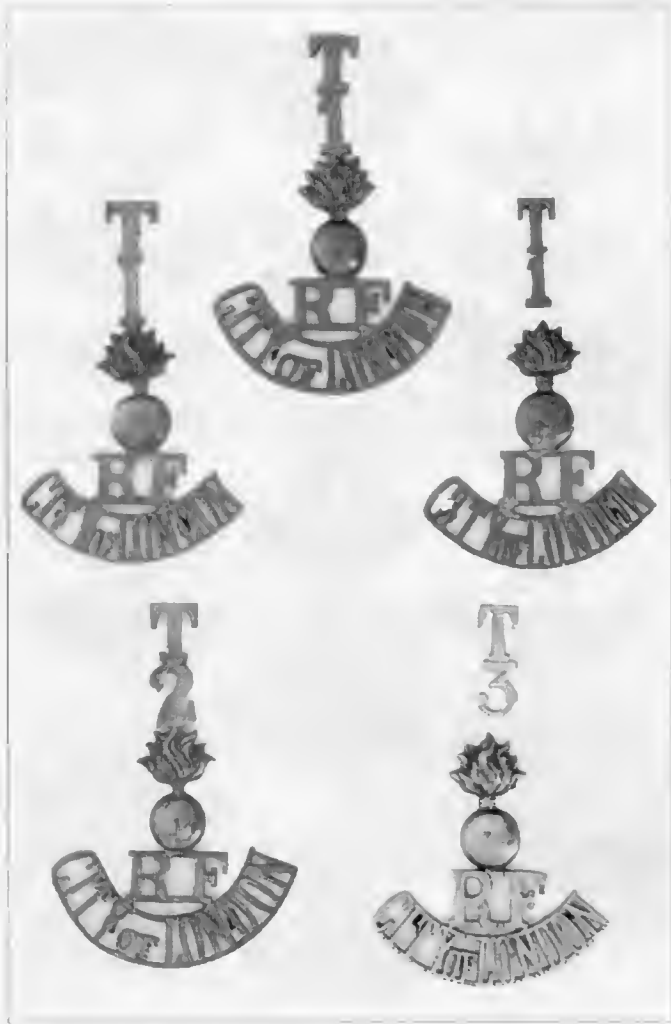
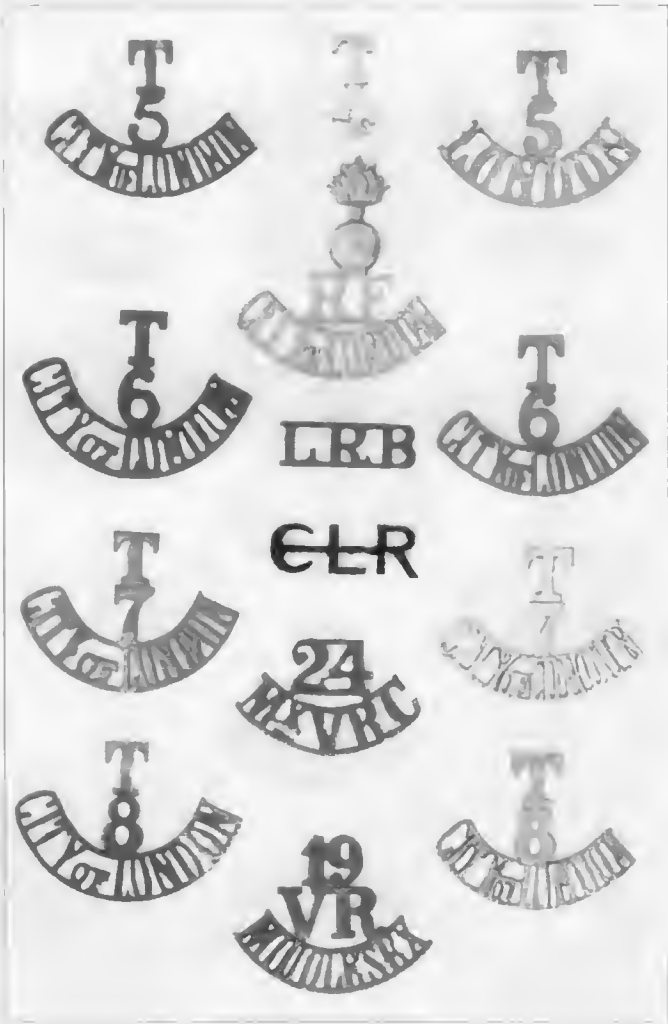


Fig 2



overseas. The London Regiment was further expanded during the War by the formation of six completely new battalions, the 29th-34th.

Divisions were numbered according to the date on which they moved overseas and it followed that the 2nd London Division received the title of 47th (2nd London) Division (brigades numbered 140, 141, 142) after crossing to France in March 1915. In the case of the senior division, some of whose battalions had gone overseas independently as early as September 1914, the higher number of 56th (1st London) (brigades numbered 167, 168, 169) was received as it was not until February 1916 that the 1st London Division assembled as such in France. The 2nd Line battalions were also formed into two divisions — 58th (2nd/1st London) comprising 173, 174 and 175 Brigades, and 60th (2nd/2nd London) comprising 179, 180 and 181 Brigades; the battalion organisation being a duplicate of that for the 1st Line.

As previously mentioned, some battalions of the 1st London Division crossed to

France early in the war as reinforcements to the British Expeditionary Force then in front of Ypres. Likewise a number from 2nd London Division (47th) also saw action early in the war as part of other formations. Also, to relieve the Regular Army garrison at Malta, the 1st-4th Battalions (1st London Brigade) left England on 4 September 1914.

The 47th Division reached France in March 1915 and by May was fighting at Aubers Ridge and Festubert. The Battle of Loos followed in late September and after the second week of October the Londoners were involved in the heavy fighting at Hohenzollern Redoubt.

As a division, the 56th was to see its first major action as part of the diversionary attack at Commeccourt on 1 July 1916 — 'the first day of the Somme'. A long period out of the line followed, during which time drafts were received to make up the great losses at Commeccourt. Back in action on the Somme, the Division arrived in time for the September fighting at Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, the capture of Combles

and the battles of the Transloy Ridges.

After heavy fighting at Vimy Ridge in May 1916, the 47th Division moved south to take its part in the Somme campaign. As part of the operations between the villages of Courcelette and Flers, the Division was to play an important role, and is credited with the capture on 15th September of the stubbornly held High Wood. Later engagements in 1916 included the capture of Eaucourt L'Abbay between 1-3 October, and the attacks on the Butte de Warlencourt on the 7th and 8th.

Its training completed, the 60th Division moved to France in June 1916 and spent a time at Vimy Ridge. On 1 November, however, the Division was ordered to Macedonia and on Christmas Day it was assembling at Salonika.

It was not until February 1917 that the 58th Division was complete in France, but after training in trench warfare it was operational during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in the following month. In May part of the Division was involved during the Battle of

Bullecourt and towards the end of the month and into June much fighting was experienced on the Hindenburg Line. In the 1917 battles at Ypres the Londoners were at Menin Road Ridge and Polygon Wood (20-27 September) and between 26 October-10 November were heavily engaged during the Second Battle of Passchendaele.

For the 56th Division the fighting around Arras, and in particular the Scarpe River battles of April-May 1917, accounted for high casualties and the Division was withdrawn from the line until August and the battle at Langemarck in the Ypres sector. In June the 47th Division was at Messines and from 31 July-2 August Pilchem Ridge. The winter months of 1917 saw both first-line divisions in action during the Cambrai operations.

On the Eastern Front the 60th Division throughout 1917 was engaged during the Battle of Dojran (April and May) and later in the year, having moved to Egypt in June, the successful Third Battle of Gaza operations at Beersheba, Sheria and Jerusalem.

Fig 3

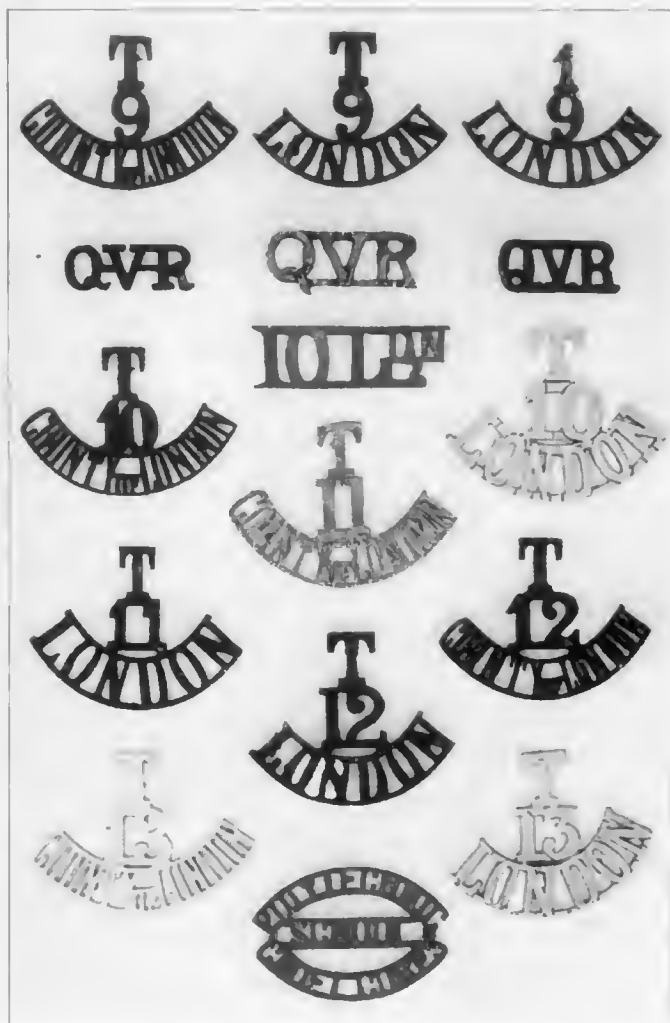
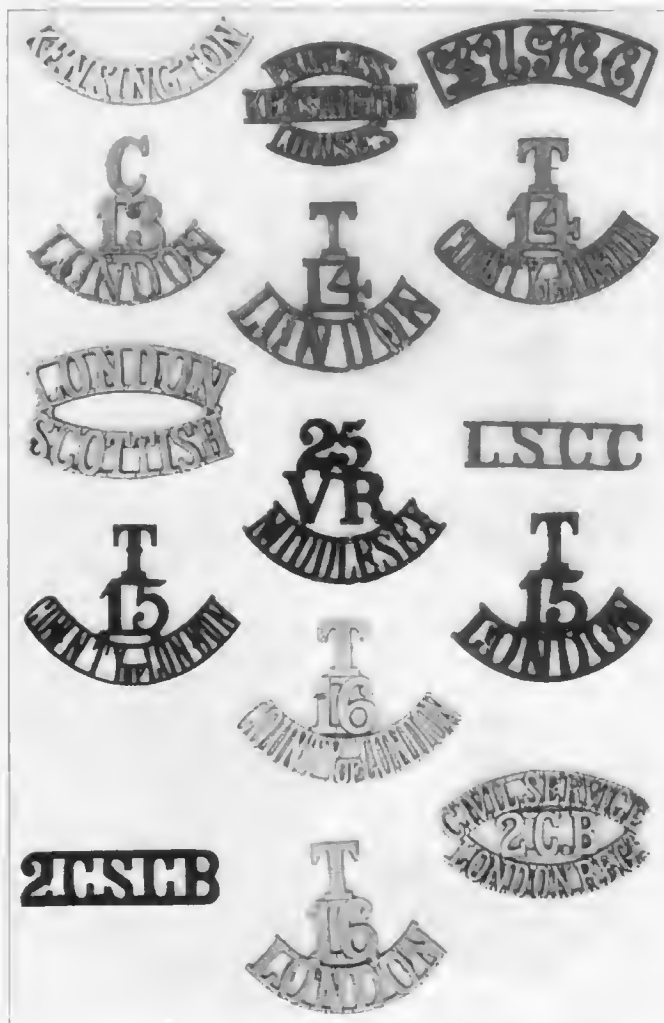


Fig 4





For their remaining year on the Western Front, the 47th, 56th and 58th Divisions were all heavily engaged during the German spring offensive, the August Somme and Arras battles and the final stages from the Hindenburg Line in September, through to victory in November. Meanwhile, in Egypt the 60th Division, after its success at Jerico in February 1918 and a series of engagements throughout March and April, was reorganised and at the end of May seven battalions were transferred to France and Flanders. At the same time two were disbanded while the remainder continued service in Palestine.

The end of the war saw 2nd Line and Reserve battalions disbanded and all except the 25th Battalion re-formed. The Territorial Force had been renamed as Territorial Army and each battalion was now, and since 1916, part of the Corps of a Regular regiment.

The next changes in the organisation of the London Regiment occurred in 1922 when the 7th and 8th Battalions were amalgamated as 7th, and 15th and 16th as 16th. During the same year all battalions

were to be given the status of separate regiments and it followed that their titles were changed to, eg 1st City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

In 1935 the advent of Anti-Aircraft Command required the conversion of several infantry regiments into artillery units, and subsequently the 4th and 11th London Regiments became part of the Royal Artillery. At the same time a further five regiments were lost when they joined the Royal Engineers and were equipped with searchlights.

The name of the London Regiment was finally to disappear when in 1937 the remaining 16 regiments were re-named and numbered as battalions of their parent regiments. So after 29 years' service the London Regiment passed into history.

### SHOULDER TITLES

As well as its cap badge, each battalion of the London Regiment was identified by a metal shoulder title, a selection of which are illustrated in Figs 1-6. Most are self-explanatory, bearing the letter 'T' (Territorial), the number of the

battalion and the wording 'CITY OF LONDON' or 'COUNTY OF LONDON'. Plain 'LONDON' was introduced for most battalions during the First World War. In the case of the 1st to 4th Battalions, their link with the Royal Fusiliers was indicated by the inclusion of grenades and the letters 'RF' (Figs 1 and 2). As can be seen, these extra large titles were issued in either one or two pieces. Titles with no numbers (Fig 6 bottom row) were used by some battalions and photographs would suggest that this pattern was introduced during the First World War.

In some cases plain initials were worn by officers, viz: London Rifle Brigade and City of London Rifles (Fig 2), Queen Victoria's Rifles (Fig 3) and Tower Hamlets Rifles (Fig 5). Few metal shoulder titles were worn by the volunteers prior to 1908, but examples of these can be seen in Fig 2.

A number of special patterns were worn. There was that manufactured and used by the 10th while in Egypt (Fig 3, third row), two have been noted for the 13th Kensingtons (Fig 4, top row), the 'LONDON SCOT-

TISH' introduced during the First World War (Fig 4, third row) and a smaller version of the 23rd. During the First World War, and after the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Line Battalions were formed, it was not unusual to see titles that had had the 'T' clipped so as to appear as the number '1' and therefore distinguish the original formation from the war-raised units. In the case of the 1/9th Battalion a special pattern was manufactured with a '1' replacing the 'T' (Fig 3, top row).

There were numerous cadet formations affiliated to battalions of the London Regiment and these were often identified by the substitution of the letter 'C' for 'T'. Some units, however, had special titles which were normally self explanatory. The two seen in Fig 4 are for the Latimer Upper School Cadet Corps (top) and the London Scottish Cadet Corps (third row).

In full dress uniforms titles would be white metal or, in the case of battalions dressed as rifle units, blackened brass. In some cases, however, special permission was given for brass titles to be used. In service dress titles were brass or blackened. **MI**

Fig 5

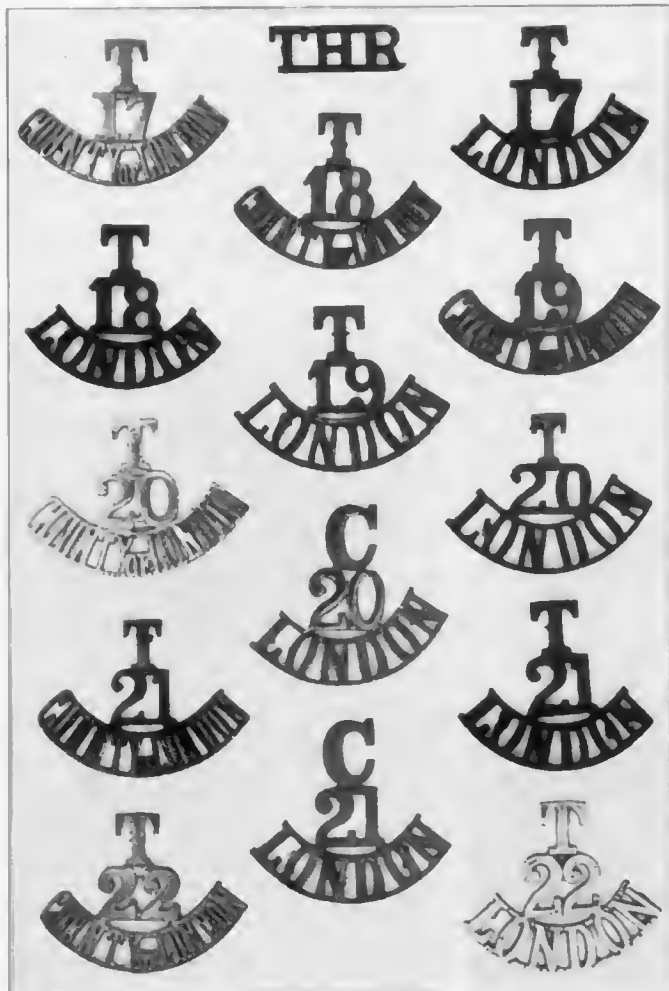
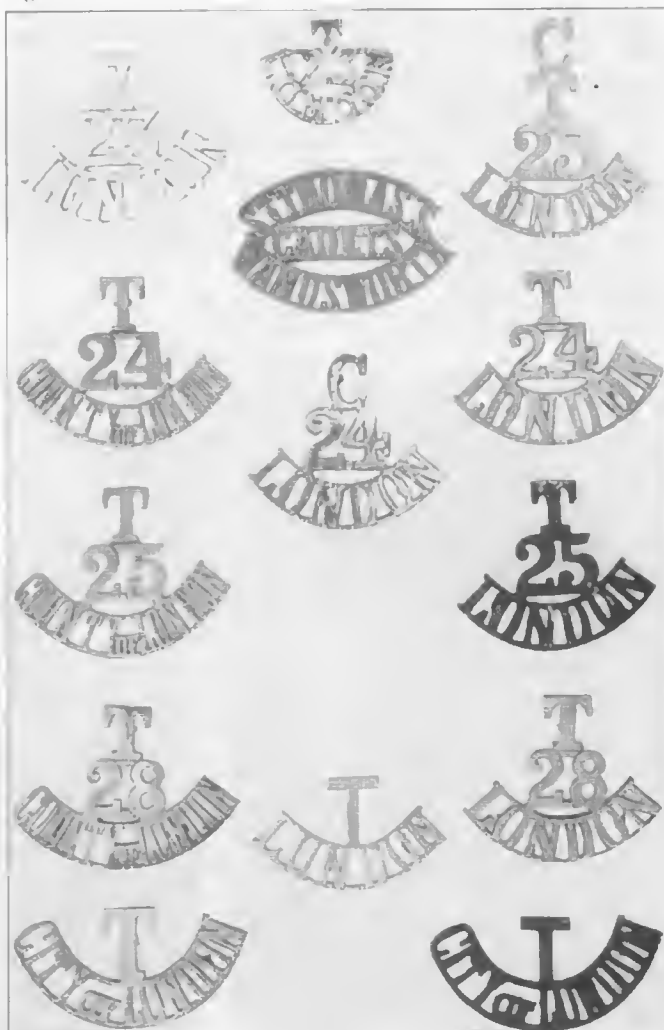


Fig 6



# GERMAN FIELD CAPS, 1933-1945

GORDON WILLIAMSON

OF ALL THE headgear associated with the armies of the Third Reich, the steel helmet must surely be that which is most firmly established in people's minds as symbolising the German soldier. The highly popular 'ski-cap' will also be quickly recognised by many as a distinctly German form of military headdress. In fact, however, from 1939-1945 a vast, and some times bewilderingly complicated range of headgear was produced for wear by the German soldier in the field.

Within the Wehrmacht the number of styles of headgear produced was, of course, wasteful in a wartime economy, and steps were taken to produce a standard field cap for wear by all military formations. This resulted in the Einheitsfeldmütze M1943. This popular and stylish cap was almost identical for all branches of the armed forces as well as many paramilitary units, apart from the colour of cloth from which it was cut. It never fully replaced the earlier forms of field cap, however, most of which continued to see service

until the end of the war. These articles, though by no means exhaustive, will attempt to present the reader with an overview of the principal patterns of field cap worn by the German soldier during World War II.

## THE GERMAN ARMY

### The Bergmütze or mountain cap

Introduced as early as 1930, the Bergmütze was closely modelled on the cap worn by Austrian mountain troops during World War I. It was cut from field grey cloth which could vary in quality from wool to fine twill. It featured a rather high cut crown and short peak, and, most importantly, two fully functional side flaps which could pull down, buttoning

under the chin to protect the side and rear of the head in cold weather. When not in use the flaps buttoned at the front of the cap. The lining was generally in a grey twill material and officers' caps usually featured a leather sweatband. The buttons could vary from horn through fibre and plastic to elaborate though unofficial metal buttons bearing the edelweiss motif. Latterly, standard pebbled buttons were used, in field grey finish for other ranks, aluminium for officers and gilt for Generals. From 1942 onwards, officers' caps were to feature woven aluminium braid piping to the crown (gilt for Generals).

The Bergmütze may be encountered both with and without a single metal air grommet on each side, just below the

crown seam.

Insignia on this cap consisted of a single one-piece machine-woven eagle and swastika national emblem over a cockade in the national colours of red, white and black. Initially featuring a white or pale grey national emblem, and all on a dark green backing, these colours later changed to mouse grey on a field grey backing. Early insignia was on a 'T' shaped backing whilst the later insignia was trapezoidal. The national emblem on officers caps was woven in aluminium wire, and that for Generals in gilt wire.

On the left side flap was worn a small metal edelweiss badge, the traditional insignia of the Mountain Troops. This was sewn or pinned direct on to the flap on most examples, though some were first attached to a dark green backing cloth which was then sewn to the cap.

### Feldmütze älterer Art or Old Style Field Cap

Introduced in 1934 for officers and officials (including officials without officer status), this was one of the most popular of all Third Reich military headgear, both at the time, and postwar with collectors.

*Hauptmann Horst Zobel, Adjutant of Panzer Abteilung Münchberg, wears the Feldmütze Älterer Art, piped in pink for Panzer personnel, and featuring the regulation machine-woven metallic thread insignia. Collectors will note the unique zip-fastened breast pocket to the black Panzer jacket. (Josef Charita.)*

*This photograph of Knights Cross winner Hauptfeldwebel Wilhelm Wendt shows to what extent the tropical peaked Field Cap would fade, either, by the effects of the sun, or by deliberate bleaching. (Josef Charita.)*

*The officers' version of the Bergmütze, clearly showing the 'T' shaped configuration of the insignia, and the position of the metal edelweiss insignia on the left flap. Shown here is Major Ludwig Stautner, Commander of I Bataillon, Gebirgsjäger Regiment 139. (Josef Charita.)*





Modelled closely on the standard Peaked Service Cap or Schirmmütze, this style of cap featured a field grey top, the material of which could range from a fairly coarse wool to fine twills or doeskin wool. The crown to the top of the cap was piped in branch of service waffenfarbe (gilt aluminium for Generals).

The cap band consisted of fine dark green wool over a thin card former, piped top and bottom in waffenfarbe. No chin-strap and cords were fitted. The peak to this cap was cut from supple leather. The lining could be in a variety of materials and colours and often lacked the celluloid sweat diamond found in Schirmmützen. A leather or ersatz material sweatband was fitted.

Regulation insignia for this cap consisted of an aluminium wire woven national emblem on a dark green backing. Officials without officer status had their insignia woven in white cotton thread on dark green, and latterly, Generals had theirs woven in gilt threads. On the cap band was the standard Army emblem of a national cockade surrounded by an oakleaf wreath, again machine-woven in the above colours.

The construction of this cap was such that it could be crushed up and stuffed into a rucksack or pocket, hence its popular name amongst collectors, the 'Crusher Cap'.

The cap was discontinued from April 1942. It was, however, so popular that many continued to wear it long after this date, sometimes with a half-hearted attempt to 'legitimise' it with the addition of officers' cords or metal insignia from the Schirmmütze. Conversely, some officers attempted to make their Schirmmützen look like old style caps by removing their cords and adding cloth rather than metal insignia.

These caps are now considered very scarce and are greatly sought after by collectors.

#### Feldmütze M1934

This cap was introduced in 1934 for non-officer ranks. In field grey wool, it featured a flap, scalloped at the front to allow it to be pulled down in cold weather to protect the top of the ears. In the event, this feature was rarely used, as a field grey woollen toque (a 'tube' of wool which was pulled on over the head with only the face then exposed) served the purpose of protecting the head far more efficiently.

A single metal grommet for ventilation was often featured

on each side of the cap.

The lining was generally in grey or field grey cotton twill, often ink stamped with the size, date of manufacture, and the maker's name.

On the scalloped front portion of the flap was sewn a national cockade on a diamond-shaped dark green or field grey backing. A soutache of waffenfarbe braid enclosed this cockade on caps manufactured up to July 1942, after which this feature was discontinued. The national emblem was machine woven in white or pale grey on dark green and latterly in mouse grey on field grey.

An identical cap was introduced in 1940 for Panzer troops, cut in black wool and with the insignia on a black backing. Prior to this many Panzer personnel wore the field grey version in conjunction with their special black Panzer clothing.

#### Feldmütze M1938

Correctly entitled, 'Feldmütze neuer Prob für Offiziere', or New Style Field Cap for Officers, this cap was modelled on the M34 other ranks' field cap but cut in much finer cloth, usually doeskin or twill. In addition it featured silk lining, a partial leather sweatband to protect the forehead, and woven aluminium braid piping to the crown and scalloped portion of the flap (gilt braid for Generals).

Standard insignia for this cap was as for the M34 other ranks' version but woven in wire threads of the appropriate colours. Officers also often used hand-embroidered wire insignia on these caps. Once again a special version of this cap was made in fine black cloth for officers of the Panzertruppe.

An unusual fashion has been recorded within the Army's Fallschirm-Infanterie-Bataillon for a short time before the Fallschirmjäger were all absorbed into the Luftwaffe. The M38 officers' Feldmütze was worn, but instead of the normal cockade, the full oakleaf wreath and cockade in woven form, from the Old Style Field Cap, was used.

As with the M34 version, waffenfarbe piping enclosed the cockade on the M38 Field Cap until 1942 (Generals wore gold piping around the cockade also).

#### Tropenfeldmütze or Tropical Field Cap

A special version of the M34 Field Cap was produced for wear in tropical climates.



*This photograph shows an Other Ranks' tropical peaked Field Cap modified for officer use. It has had twisted cord collar patch piping added to the crown and scallop, an officers' hand embroidered cockade, and officers' metallic wire woven eagle on dark green backing added. Oberstleutnant Karl Herzog, Commander of Heeres Sturm-Pioniere Brigade 627 (mot), wears the officers' version of the M43 Field Cap, with aluminium braid piping to the crown. It appears, however, that a basic Other Ranks' pattern insignia has been used. Of additional interest is the Honour Roll Clasp of the German Army worn on the Iron Cross Ribbon on the second buttonhole. (Josef Charita.)*

Identical in cut to the standard woollen cap, it was manufactured in olive coloured cotton twill with a bright red cotton lining. A single metal grommet each side ventilated the cap.

The national emblem for this cap, worn by all ranks, was machine-woven pale blue cotton on a rust brown coloured backing. The cockade was also woven on this colour of backing material. Initial issues of this cap featured the waffenfarbe piping to the cockade.

Officers' caps featured the usual aluminium braid woven piping (gilt for Generals) to the crown and scalloped portion of the flap.

This cap was far more popular than the cumbersome sun helmet, and even once generally superseded by the Tropical Peaked Field Cap it remained popular with the crews of armoured vehicles where the peak of the later cap could be an inconvenience.

#### Feldmütze M1942

After the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, it quickly became clear that the German soldier was ill-equipped for the severity of the Russian winters. In July 1942, a new cap was introduced which would give the wearer far greater protection from the cold than its predecessor. The M42 Field Cap was in fact little more than a Bergmütze with the peak removed. Virtually all the other features of the Bergmütze were retained, ie, the button fastened flaps, the one-piece machine-woven insignia, etc.

No officers' version was officially introduced, though examples are known with both silver and gilt piping to the crown indicating that some officers did commission privately manufactured versions of this cap.

#### Tropenfeldmütze mit Schirm or Peaked Tropical Field Cap

This cap, introduced for German Army personnel fighting in North Africa and other tropical areas, was based on the design of the Bergmütze, but with several important differences. Firstly, the crown of the tropical cap was much lower than on the Bergmütze; secondly the flap was false and purely a design feature; and thirdly the waffenfarbe piping of the wearer was featured enclosing the national cockade (until 1942).

The cap was cut from the same olive-coloured cotton twill as the non-peaked Tropical Field Cap, and featured the same red cotton lining. Insignia was also the same, being woven in light blue on a rust brown backing. Officers often wore woven or embroidered wire insignia through choice. These

caps featured silver woven aluminium braid for officers, gilt for Generals.

# **Einheitsfeldmütze M1943 or Standard Field Cap M43**

Wartime economies dictated that the German Armed Forces introduced a standardised cap to replace the wide variety of existing models. Although this new cap never did fully replace existing types, the cap which finally emerged was highly successful and popular, combining many of the best features of its forerunners. So successful was it in fact that the postwar Bundeswehr

re-introduced this style of cap in the 1950s and a myriad of 'civilian' versions came into use after the war.

The M43 Cap was closely modelled on the Bergmütze but with a lower crown and a longer peak. Its flap was fastened by two pebbled finish metal buttons (fibre or plastic buttons are also known) and officers' caps featured woven aluminium (gilt for Generals) piping to the crown. Models are encountered both with and without air ventilation grommets.

Cut in field grey wool for other ranks and a variety of finer cloths

for officers, the cap was lined in either twill or artificial silk.

Standard insignia for the cap was the basic one-piece trapezoidal shaped insignia from the Bergmütze. Officers' caps often featured leather sweatbands.

The M43 Cap was also cut in black cloth for Panzer personnel, and indeed it is with Panzer personnel that a number of unusual fashions seem to have appeared. The most prevalent of these was the addition of twisted silver cord piping to the scalloped portion of the flaps, by Panzer officers, and the addition of hand-embroidered bul-

lion national emblems, often to the exclusion of the national cockade. On occasion, the cockade would be moved on to the flap, over the top button, though this would have presumably left the flaps non-functional.

A number of unofficial versions of the M43 Cap were also produced by adding fur covering to the side flaps. Obviously this was particularly prevalent on the Eastern Front. A few examples were also produced cut from splinter pattern camouflage material, but these are rare.

**MI**

**A.** An Army Other Ranks' M43 cap for Panzer units, with the 'Windhund' badge of 116 Panzer Division on the left side flap.

**B.** Army Panzer officer's M38 Feldmütze with rose-pink soutache, machine-woven eagle and hand embroidered cockade.

**C.** Interior of an Army officer's M43 Feldmütze. Note the provision of a full leather sweatband.

**D.** Interior of an Other Ranks' black Panzer M43 cap. Note the size stamp '57' and the RB Nr (Reichsbekleidungsamt control number).

**A**



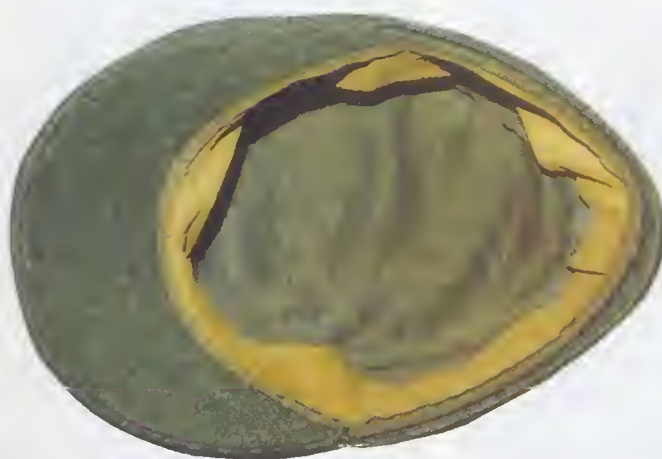
**B**



**D**



**C**







# The Greek Cypriot National Guard

## HISTORY

FOLLOWING THE declaration of independence from Great Britain on 1 October 1960 and while the British reassembled in the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) in Episkopi/Akrotiri and Dhekelia, the newly formulated constitution for the Republic of Cyprus stipulated the creation of an army to defend the island. Article 129 laid down that 'the Republic shall have an

NICK VAN DER BIJL

FORMED IN 1964 to help stabilise the chaotic situation then existing in Cyprus and proving themselves in battle ten years later, the GCNG is today a diverse, well-organised and disciplined force of many talents, particularly in the light infantry role.

army of 2,000 men, of whom 60 percent shall be Greeks and 40 percent shall be Turks'.

Compulsory military service would only be initiated on the authority of the President and

## Above:

1987. A GCNG infantry band wearing locally manufactured and designed camouflaged uniforms, complemented by blue scarves onto which has been pinned the yellow GCNG insignia. The helmet is based on the Greek version. The camouflaged uniforms, which were introduced in the late 1980s, have served to enhance the reputation and attraction of the GCNG for regular service.



his executive. The new Army was called the Cyprus Army. From its inception to the present day the Cyprus Army has been dogged by the political trauma of Cyprus, rarely reached its quota and is largely an ineffective force.

During the early years of the Republic, the Greek-Cypriots, encouraged by Greece, attempted, with some success, to alienate the indigenous Turkish-Cypriot population by despatching marauding bands of men, many EOKA veterans, to terrorise the countryside. The

1987. A Milan mounted on a Willys Jeep. This photograph shows the close similarity of the camouflaged design and colour to British styles. The standing soldier is a conscript sergeant and carries German Heckler-Koch 5.56mm 33E semi-automatic rifle with folding butt.

*A British World War II vintage 17 pdr anti-tank gun. The crews wear British style battledress, brown berets and '38 pattern webbing.*

police generally did little to stop the chaos; the Cyprus Army was of even less value. In December 1963 the first serious outbreak of intercommunal strife resulted in the deployment of Cyprus-based Turkish troops stationed on the island to protect the Turkish-Cypriot communities. It also resulted in the establishment of the Green Line to divide the two communities manned initially by British troops from the SBAs but the trouble continued. On 25 April 1964 President Makarios declared that with the breakdown and failure of the constitution, the withdrawal of Turkish-Cypriots into their defended enclaves and the failure of the Security Forces to maintain law and order, the Greek-Cypriot National Guard (GCNG) would be formed. It would be a temporary force until order was restored and would eventually be replaced by a Gendarmerie. The GCNG would not only have a defence role but would also be available to diffuse the effect of armed groups and thereby protect Cyprus from internal subversion and disruption. All Greek-Cypriots aged between 18 to 50 years would be eligible for two years' service followed by assignment to the Reserve.

On 2 June the first recruits reported for duty and, on 10 June, the former EOKA military leader Lieutenant General George Grivas returned from retirement in Greece and was



appointed acting Supreme Commander of Forces for the defence of Cyprus. He organised the embryonic National Guard into initially three Higher Tactical Commands (HTCs) and then five, based on the districts of Nicosia, Kyrenia, Famagusta, Paphos and Limassol. Under command of the HTCs were 14 Tactical Groups. The formations merely formalised a relatively informal structure, there being no standard formation or unit organisation, a device the GCNG uses today. Equipment, rank structure, uniform and insignia were based on the British system because they were familiar to the Cypriots. To make up his deficiency to commanders and the Staff, Grivas invited officers from the Royal Hellenic Army on detachment to the GCNG.

Most were career officers and highly politically aware, seeing Cyprus as part of Greater Greece.

Many of the original recruits were former EOKA and, counting on their support, Grivas decided without presidential authority to flex the muscles of the GCNG and attacked the Turkish-Cypriot enclaves of Kokkhina and Liminitis. However, Turkish Air Force (TAF) strikes killed 58 National Guardsmen, wounded 125 and destroyed valuable equipment. Greece, fearing a confrontation with Turkey, ordered a ceasefire. Grivas was typically unrepentant and although appointed Commander GCNG in March 1966, he continued to fuel intercommunal unrest and political instability, while the GCNG built up its stocks from a

variety of countries. In 1967 there was another surge of intercommunal violence and Grivas ordered an armoured thrust into Turkish-Cypriot areas, which was halted by the United Nations Forces in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Tension increased with a direct confrontation between the GCNG and a British contingent of UNFICYP, the former being forced to withdraw after a bout of fist-fighting and scrapping.

Turkey's patience had worn thin with the lack of Presidential control of the GCNG and military intervention was only prevented by the promise that the majority of the Greeks would leave. Grivas was disgusted and used the GCNG to undermine the authority of Makarios.

In January 1974 Grivas died in Limassol. He had built up the GCNG into an effective but politically aware force. It consisted of about 10,000 men organised into 14 infantry battalions, each with a hotch-potch of equipment, deployed to sortie against the Turkish-Cypriot enclaves and along the Green Line. Exercises tended to concentrate on anti-invasion scenarios along the north coast. 30,000 militia were also available. 10,000 reservists could be mobilised within six hours of call-out.

Political intrigue continued and on 15 July, Cyprus was rocked by a GCNG/EOKA coup d'état, engineered by Greek officers under control from



*1972. GCNG infantry march past carrying US M20 3.5 inch rocket launchers, nicknamed 'Super Bazooka'. The British influence in uniform and shirt sleeve order is very evident.*





1984. ELDYK RFU in a Gemini assault boat on a trailer pulled by a British airportable Land Rover. The rearmost soldier in the trailer carries a HF radio on his back.

Athens. Makarios was rescued by the British who spirited him to London. Fearing the worst from the new President, former EOKA leader Nicos Samson, the Turkish-Cypriots mobilised their resistance groups. This time Turkey could not be dissuaded from taking direct action and on 20 July Turkish parachute forces dropped near the Turkish-Cypriot enclave of Geunyeli. They were accurately shelled by GCNG 25-pdrs. dug in at Nicosia airport. Fighting was severe as amphibious force broke out of its beachhead on 'Invasion Beach', five miles west of Kyrenia, and encountered determined GCNG units defending the St Hilarion pass from Kyrenia to Nicosia. In spite of their exhaustion, confusion and dispersal after the coup, the Greek-Cypriots counter-attacked wherever and whenever they could, using a mixture of daring tactics, dedication and near paranoiac hatred of the Turks, but were eventually overwhelmed by superior forces. Turkish-Cypriot communities in Famagusta, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos were overrun by the Greek-Cypriots causing a major movement of refugees into the SBAs. By 22 July the UN had negotiated a cease-fire, which gave both sides a chance

to regroup. The Turks massively reinforced their slender forces from about 6,000 men and 40 tanks to 36,000 men and 200 tanks on 8 August. Greece was powerless to reinforce the beleaguered GCNG.

On 14 August, after the collapse of further negotiations, two Turkish infantry divisions, supported by tanks and a fighter ground attack, swept over the Kyrenia Range and fanned out across the Central Plain. The GCNG were pushed back across Cyprus. Only in Nicosia did they meet with some success where one 22-man unit held out against the 50 (Wolf) Regiment in intense and bitter fighting. On 16 August another cease-fire was negotiated by the UN and both sides settled to man the cease-fire line across Cyprus.

The coup had been humiliating and the military defeat demoralising in spite of the creditable performance of the GCNG. The consequent division into the two ethnic environs was a shattering blow to all Cypriots. Archbishop Makarios returned to the island and immediately set about restoring law and order and rebuilding the Republic of Cyprus. The GCNG had overplayed its hand and the politicians set about depoliticising it.

Today the GCNG is apolitical and a military force in every sense of the word. Its role is to protect the Republic of Cyprus against incursions and advances from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, an unlikely event. The GCNG do not fear the Turks but

respect their abilities and strengths and are awed by their military might, inventory and superiority; every effort is made to persuade the Republic that the nation is on a war footing. Security is very tight.

The GCNG are under the command of the Ministry of Defence, although it still has Greek officers who have retained the operational control of the force, although this is changing with 'Cyprusisation'.

The highest military formation remains the HMC, of which there are now four, lettered A to D, roughly equivalent to a British division in role and basic organisation, each commanded by a major-general. Each HMC has at least two Military Commands (MC) of which there are nine numbered 1 to 9, the extra MC assigned to Nicosia HMC; MCs are equivalent to British brigades in concept. Corps assets available to HQ GCNG, located in Nicosia, have always included, and still do, the Armoured Corps, Raiding Force Units (RFUs), engineers, artillery and support services. The basic tactical unit is the battalion. The organisation is flexible at all levels and adapted to suit the situation. In war, to simplify control the GCNG reverts to use of Division, Brigade and Battalion as terminology.

Most of the GCNG remains

1984. A South African World War II vintage Marmon-Herrington armoured car. These were some of the first AFVs acquired by the GCNG and in order to beat embargoes, they were sold as scrap in two halves. The Greek-Cypriots simply welded them together — and closely viewed, the weld line is easily seen.





1984. A section of US manufactured 106mm M40 recoilless anti-personnel anti-tank rifles mounted on British 1/2-ton air-portable Land Rovers. The troops wear khaki summer uniforms and are equipped with German Heckler-Koch 7.62mm G3A3 semi-automatic rifles.

reserve and heavy 'fire brigade'. Although most basic training is done in Cyprus, advanced instruction is done in France and Greece.

### ARMoured RECCE

The armoured recce elements have also always been part of the HQ GCNG corps reserve. Cyprus is ideal for armoured recce, particularly wheeled vehicles, with good roads and tracks and in the summer excellent cross-country 'going'. The first armoured cars to be purchased were 40 South African Marmon-Harringtons wheeled armoured cars of World War II vintage. Sold as scrap, the Cypriots welded them back together. Two battalions were formed, which proved a valuable asset in the 1974 war, but they were nevertheless out-classed by Turkish armour.

The Marmon-Harringtons remain in service with the Reserves, although now made obsolete by the appearance of the Brazilian Casceval wheeled armoured car, with its 90mm main armament. The GCNG has at least 100 Cascevals, most located with the armoured corps, west of Larnaca but it is doubtful if all are in regular use.

### ARTILLERY

The GCNG was quick to purchase artillery in 1964, primarily ex-British 25-pdrs., US M116 Pack Howitzers and Soviet 100mm M1944s. Generally the artillery was under command of the HMCs although in some instances they were assigned to TCs. The artillery played an important role in the 1974 invasion in shelling the Geunyeli DZ, causing considerable disruption to the Turkish paratroopers, by interdicting the link up between the airborne and amphibious forces on the St Hilarion pass and by providing close support in Nicosia; most of the Forward Observation Officers were Greek operating to Cypriot gunners. Artillery remains an important feature of the GCNG, who have been keen to keep up to date; they have purchased Yugoslavian 105mm M56 howitzers and M63 multi-barrelled rocket launchers. Long-range artillery is lacking but

deployed along the cease-fire line with the greatest concentration around Nicosia. But much is cosmetic with poorly constructed fieldworks and badly sited defensive positions, perhaps indicating the GCNG prefers to fight a mobile war against overwhelming odds. Conscription continues to be the principal source of manpower, all Greek-Cypriot resident males, and some women, on reaching the age of 18 years liable to 26 months' service. The 13,000 GCNG can expand to 100,000 with the mobilisation of reservists. Conscription is regarded as a national duty, generally willingly done, although regular service is well down on the social scale, even for officers. Induction is carried at one of the three centres at Nicosia, Paphos and Larnaca and this is then followed by 40 days' basic training before posting to an active unit. Life is Spartan, particularly in the units manning the cease-fire line. Some modern equipment and camouflaged uniforms give some respectability.

### INFANTRY

The GCNG principal strength lies with the infantry, a corps with a history of service in both World Wars as the Cyprus Regiment. From its inception in 1964 with 14 battalions, the infantry now has about 25 battalions, a further 15 or so available as reserves within 48 hours of mobilisation. With a long history as dogged fighters, good shots and hardiness in the field evolved from experiences throughout the ages, the GCNG

infantry proved themselves in 1974 as daring, well-led and capable of defeating the infantry the Soviets feared most. There are two 'branches' of the infantry, light and mechanised.

The light infantry has a proven capability in street and difficult terrain fighting. Organisation has never been standard and is adapted to suit the environment and situation. Commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, a battalion consists of three rifle companies, service support and a headquarters. After 1964 most equipment was ex-British but as Soviet Bloc material became more available, there was soon a bewildering array of weapons, radios and other items that must have given the quartermasters heart attacks. Nevertheless, it does seem that ammunition was plentiful. Today the light infantry remain the most numerous element of the GCNG. They continue to be lightly equipped with very basic webbing, march only when they have to and rely on locally-requisitioned lorries.

The mechanised infantry is part of the Armoured Corps. Originally equipped with Soviet BTR 152 APCs, their role is to operate with the armour. When the BTR 152s became obsolete, the GCNG took delivery in the mid-1980s of French wheeled VAB APCs, some equipped with the T20 20mm turret. They are earmarked to operate with the Brazilian Cascevals. With the introduction of French AMX 30 tanks in 1987, the GCNG purchased Leonidas tracked APCs made by Steyr and under

licence in Greece. The average mechanised infantry battalion consists of three rifle companies, a headquarters and service company and a support company of two mortar platoons.

### ARMOUR

By 1961 the GCNG had assembled a battalion of 32 Egyptian T34/85s purchased from Egypt. Some were used in the 1967 attack on Famagusta/Larnaca, but fortunately did not open fire; otherwise they remained as a floating armoured reserve available to HQ GCNG as a Corps asset. In 1974, the T34/85 crews found, as the Arab crews had found against the Israelis, that Soviet tanks were inadequate in almost every aspect to NATO tanks, in this case Turkish M47s. Although there were not tank battles, the GCNG armour was outgunned and outmanoeuvred by tanks and crews used to exploiting the openness of the Central Plain.

Cyprus made several attempts to replenish its stocks of tanks but it was not until 1983 that the French agreed to sell AMX 30 2bs, with their 105mm main armament, to the GCNG. By this time the remaining T34/85s were derelict, barely motorable and mostly deployed in hull-down positions along the cease-fire line. In 1987 the first AMX 30s arrived amidst political allegations, during the 1988 Presidential elections, that the tanks were not new.

The armoured corps, adjacent to the Kornos training areas, is, as customary with the GCNG, part of the armoured



there is no doubt that the artillery can put down an immense field of fire.

If there is one element the GCNG lacks, it is air defence, a problem which originates from 1965 when political repercussions on the international scene prevented the purchase of nearly 200 Soviet SA-2 'Guideline'. Although the prime movers did arrive, the missiles and launchers did not; the prime movers and tractors were later used as APCs. The lack of air defence and a misappreciation of its power was a prime factor in the high casualty rate at Kokkhiina in 1964. Even the purchase of Soviet 23mm ZSU-2s, British 3.7 inch and Bofors L40/70 anti-aircraft guns and the deployment of machine-gun batteries on vehicles, such as the Quad 0.50 Browning, were barely able to prevent the TAF from attacking at will. The TAF then had air superiority and still does.

Modern weapon systems have been purchased including Blowpipe and the GDF-002 Oerlikon with its associated Skyguard radar. Nevertheless the GCNG has a serious deficiency in the lack of good anti-aircraft defences. Air defence units are generally concentrated around HQs and logistic centres. They are particularly evident during the twice-yearly troop rotation of Greek troops and can often be seen deployed around Limassol Port.

### ANTI-ARMOUR

With the need for the GCNG to maintain parity with the Turks, there has always been much evidence of anti-tank weapons. Initially this was relatively light weapons, including the British 6- and 17-pdr. anti-tank guns and the portable 3.5 inch Bazooka, the latter in infantry companies. The superiority of the Turkish tanks in 1974 and the inability to engage at long range heralded a major purchase programme. Today the GCNG is equipped with Milan, some mounted on Brazilian Jarraraca armoured cars and Willys Jeeps. Infantry battalions generally have jeep-mounted US M20 RCLs, while platoons



have Soviet RPG-7Vs. To add to the anti-tank inventory, there are the AMX 30s and Cascevals. Indeed, the combinations make a formidable anti-tank capability.

### ENGINEERS

Originally engineers did not have a major role in the GCNG but recently they have been more prominent at all levels. Their primary roles are road construction, establishment of water points in a country with few rivers, the building of accommodation, construction of field defences and mine-laying and clearing. There are a large number of construction firms in Cyprus, which resembles a gigantic building site, so there is no shortage of experienced and qualified engineers, capable of performing most military engineering disciplines.

### SERVICE SUPPORT

Service support is not a critical

element of the GCNG, there being more men in the combat army compared to logistic support. The short distances in Cyprus do not demand large and complicated service support.

The original medical support consisted of a Hygiene Company but with the inadequacies exposed during 1974, efforts have been made to improve casualty evacuation and hospitalisation procedures. Field ambulance units and trained medics are now evident at all levels with intensive care and surgery at hospitals, with their medical staff conscripted in for the duration of the conflict. Unimog and Prinzgauer ambulances are used to transport casualties.

Transport is readily available in Cyprus. Formed transport units were originally equipped with British Land-Rovers and Bedford trucks. In the late 1960s Soviet-manufactured GAZ and ZIL vehicles made an

GCNG Military Police conscript sergeant (on right) and conscript corporal (on left) guard Archbishop Makarios' tomb near Kykkos Monastery. The significant features are the white webbing order and the blue cap covers. They carry Czech 7.62mm 58P semi-automatic assault rifles.

appearance until replaced by British vehicles, many sold to the GCNG during auctions as job lots from the SBAs. Steyr of Austria and Mercedes have introduced some medium and light vehicles. The GCNG can now boast a full range of vehicles to cover tank and heavy vehicle transporters, ambulances, general purpose vehicles, troop and weapon carriers, command post and communication vehicles and internal security vehicles.

The ability of the Cypriot mechanic to keep vehicles

**Continued on page 48**

1976. A Soviet-manufactured BTR 152 wheeled APC, easily identifiable by its coffin shape. Note the cross with the Greek national colours of blue and white. The standard bearer, standing on the left-hand seat, wears a combat cap while the remainder wear berets and have shouldered British 303 Lee Enfield No 4 rifles fitted with bayonets.



Continued from page 45

going, which other nations would consider beyond repair, is uncanny but a most valuable asset. There have always been, and there still are, fitter units attached at all levels. However the introduction of the complicated AMX 30 tanks has encouraged the GCNG to create armoured workshops to carry out second-line repairs and maintenance.

Supply is no real problem. Cyprus is a small country and there is more than enough transport to move stores, rations, bread, cheese, meat and fruit, most of which is available from the local population. The diversity of weapons and calibre and country of origin is clearly a major problem and if not strictly controlled at staff level, is a sure recipe for disaster, but the GCNG has had years of practice to get it right.

The Military Police, familiar in their white webbing, with blue covers on their forage caps and immaculate vehicles, are very evident in the Republic controlling traffic, military and civilian, and maintaining discipline of the GCNG. They operate very closely with the civilian police.

#### RAIDING FORCE UNITS

Raiding Force Units (RFUs) were formed as Special Forces units under the auspices of the Greek Army soon after the formation of the GCNG. Originally, applicants were selected for their fitness, education and right-wing political leanings. Always an élitist grouping, they were often a disruptive influence with occasional lapses in discipline and political misjudgement. Nevertheless, they were highly trained in amphibious and special warfare with a view to disrupting any invasion, countering the operations of infiltrators and being used as a highly mobile reserve force. Some members had parachute training. In the early days, weapons were generally light, for instance, 303 Lee Enfields, M1 Carbines, 303 Bren LMGs and light mortars. Today the RFUs can be broken down into probably three ground force GCNG RFUs, one naval GCNG RFU and one Greek. Still an élitist group, they have been depoliticised although there is some vetting to check backgrounds and suitability. The original role of disruption, diversion and rapid response remains; a military anti-terrorist unit has also been formed from the RFUs.

MI

#### GALLERY

# John Urquhart

STUART REID Paintings by PETER DENNIS

AT THE END of the 18th Century as many as a third of the British Army's officers were Scots; most of them private gentlemen 'without the advantage of birth and friends'.

JOHN URQUHART'S career usefully illustrates the vital role played by the much maligned regimental agent at this period. Born illegitimately in Edinburgh on 26 September 1769, he had an inauspicious start since his father, also named John, was ominously recorded as 'absent' from his baptism.<sup>1</sup> Soon afterwards his mother, Isobell Sutherland, took him north to his grandfather's house at Wester Milton in Glen Urquhart<sup>2</sup>, and subsequently became the mistress of a Half-Pay officer; Lieutenant William Bannatyne.

Bannatyne had served in the 13th Foot between 1756 and 1765, latterly as Adjutant, and was well acquainted thereby with James Meyrick, then clerk to the regimental agent, John Calcraft, and Hugh Meyrick, another of the 13th's officers.

Through this connection Urquhart in due course obtained a commission in one of the regiments 'managed' by Messrs Meyrick; the first battalion of the 1st [or Royal] Regiment — later the Royal Scots — on 26 January 1791<sup>3</sup>.

The battalion was stationed in Jamaica and two ensigns below establishment so the commission may have been obtained without purchase. At any rate muster rolls for 24 June and 24 December 1791 show him recruiting, doubtless having joined the party left behind in Ireland in January 1790, but the roll for 24 June 1792 at Up Park camp, Jamaica, reveals that he had embarked with 12 recruits on 10 November.<sup>4</sup>

Promotion to Lieutenant came on 16 October that year, as part of the shuffling up which followed the death of Captain

James Irvine. A dead officer's commission could not be sold and Urquhart, as the then senior ensign, received a free step after Lieutenant Gordon Skelly for some unexplained reason leapfrogged over three others to take the vacant captaincy.

Thus far Urquhart had seen no action and indeed it was not until February 1794 that the Royals went to war.

In the previous September troops were sent from Jamaica to the neighbouring French colony of San Domingo [now Haiti]. After some initial successes it became clear that further reinforcements were required and, not without misgivings, the Royals followed in February. The Light Company at once took part in the storming of Fort L'Acul, but on 13 March the Grenadiers and two or three other companies were sent north to reinforce the Mole St Nicholas, an important fortified harbour dominating the Windward Passage to Jamaica.

The Mole was surrounded by an arid semi-desert and the garrison depended for supplies of fresh food upon a small German settlement at settlement at Bombarde, 15 miles to the south. Unfortunately, on 16 April the Germans defected to the Republicans and an attempt had to be made to re-establish control over the area as soon as possible as a matter of some urgency.

Command of the expedition was entrusted to Major Brent Spencer [13th Foot], at the head of 200 British regulars, and some local rangers serving as scouts. The exact composition of the force is uncertain, but it included at least two companies of the Royals; the grenadiers commanded by Urquhart, and another led by Ensign John Garston. [Companies were then averaging just under 30 fit men.] Contingents were also drawn from the 13th, 20th and 49th Foot, and from the Marines.

Setting off at about 9pm on the evening of 30 April they made good time and by three in the morning were esconced in a wood or coffee plantation fac-



*Battalion company officer 1st [Royals] after Dayes. Published in 1792, it is quite possible that Urquhart is in fact the officer depicted since a complementary print of a private soldier illustrates a grenadier, presumably belonging to a recruiting party. [National Museums of Scotland.]*



ing the fort. It was still dark but the garrison was alert and an alarm gun announced that the British had been detected. A hurried consultation then took place, but two French officers, Deneux and De Charmilly, opined that the fort could still be taken so Spencer divided his force in order to attack it from two sides at once.

While half the force, led by Major David Markham of the 20th, went off to attack the flank, Major Spencer made straight for the main gate. His column, which included the Royals, was allowed to approach within half a musket shot before being challenged, but then with characteristic stupidity, he answered the 'Qui Vive?' with a mighty bellow of 'England!'. Hardly surprisingly this brought down a storm of fire from the ramparts. Urquhart and some other officers thereupon made a rush for the gate, but with only ten feet to go were brought up short by a freshly dug ditch. At this unfortunate juncture they became uncomfortably aware that only a handful of grenadiers had followed them. The rest of the column was nowhere to be seen.

Worse was to come for, as they hurriedly fell back, it became apparent that the rest of the column, not content with failing to support them, had actually taken to their heels at that first blast of musketry. In the dark and confusion the survivors became separated. Ensign Garston and eight men wandered off in the wrong direction entirely, while Urquhart and 16 of his grenadiers, half of them wounded, were surrounded in the woods and after some resistance forced to surrender.

The muster roll for 24 June 1794 records the loss of Sergeant Thomas Hammond and five other men on 1 May [out of a total of 16 British dead], though it is uncertain whether this includes two men from Garston's party who died in the woods. Two other sergeants, a drummer and two men were returned as wounded in the 1 May return though with a curious delicacy Urquhart and the prisoners are listed as 'missing'.

At the insistence of a mulatto leader named Delair, Urquhart and eight unwounded men were marched next day to Port de Paix, deeper in Republican territory, but the Germans sportingly released the rest as soon as they could be moved. Urquhart himself appears to have been exchanged after the capture of Port au Prince at the beginning of June and his men followed in July.

Reminded of his mortality, Urquhart now turned to a different regimental agent, a Scotsman named Hugh Donaldson, of the Invalid Office in Whitehall. With a portfolio made up of high-numbered regiments, Donaldson operated at the shady end of the trade, specialising in obtaining promotions for his officers by transferring them back and forth between the various regiments on his books. Urquhart had become acquainted with him once again through William Bannatyne, who had exchanged on to the half-pay list of the former Monson's 9th Foot in 1765. It was now looked after by Donaldson, who was happy to oblige, and on 5 November 1795 Urquhart was promoted to a Captaincy in the 106th [Norwich] Regiment.<sup>6</sup>

In the event the monthly returns for the Royals show that Urquhart was still at the Mole St Nicholas as late as February 1795, while the inspection reports and muster rolls for the 106th confirm that he did not join that corps until after the beginning of August 1795. He was apparently present when they were mustered at Spike Island on 24 September<sup>7</sup> but by that time all regiments junior to the 100th [Gordon Highlanders] were in the process of being drafted and most of the 106th, including a fair number of officers, went into the 56th. Urquhart, however, obtained a company in yet another of Donaldson's regiments, then being augmented; the 85th [Bucks Volunteers], as of 1 September. He spent October and November recruiting but by December he had evidently decided that a long spell in garrison at Gibraltar was not an appealing prospect, particularly since service there was fre-

quently a prelude to the West Indies, and so went looking for an exchange on to the half-pay list.

Half pay was originally granted only to the officers of disbanded regiments since they were obviously unable to sell their commissions, but in time, for want of a proper pension system, serving officers were permitted to exchange into the half pay of such regiments. Thus Urquhart now exchanged with Captain Hugh Campbell of the Royal Glasgow Regiment, another unit caught up in August's purge. This took effect from 2 December although the 85th's muster roll still carries him on 24 December and the actual warrant is dated 26 February 1796<sup>8</sup>. Oddly enough, the Royal Glasgow Regiment was not managed by Donaldson, but by another Scots agent, Mr Lawrie of John Street in the Adelphi. The two were, however, in a loose partnership at the time; Donaldson appears to have been ill and most of his regiments were eventually taken over by Lawrie.

In 1800, on the recommendation of a Director named Charles Grant [who had gone to school with Urquhart's father] he obtained a post with the East India Company and in 1809 joined the newly formed Military Secretary's Department, being confirmed as 2nd Assistant Military Secretary in the following year. He retired in 1819 on health grounds and returned to Glen Urquhart. He was still carried in the Army List until 1827 but it was then noted that he had not drawn any pay for the previous seven years and according to established practice was struck off 'as a saving'.

He eventually died at Lewiston in Glen Urquhart at the ripe old age of 79 on 25 May 1848, one of the last survivors of the San Domingo debacle. **M**

#### Notes

1. John Urquhart senior [b.1753] went out to Madras as an E.I.C. cadet in 1781, but transferred to the 73rd [Later 71st] Highlanders in 1783. He died at Negapatam in 1794.
2. Andrew Urquhart fought at Culloden in Glengarry's Regiment.

**Peter Dennis' reconstructions on the back cover show, right: Ensign John Urquhart, Ireland 1791** He is dressed in

accordance with the regulations and regimental standing orders, though contemporary illustrations show that the Royals were already wearing stand-up collars. White leather breeches and soft regimental boots were permitted off the parade ground. The sword is of a regimental pattern featuring a rather heavy broadsword blade of flattened diamond section **Left:**

**Lieutenant John Urquhart, Bombarde, 1 May 1794.** On 8 July 1791 it was ordered that soldiers going to the West Indies should have a red jacket, buttoning as a waistcoat [ie, without lapels], distinguished by collar, cuffs and shoulder straps of the regiment's facing colour, with gaiter trousers and a round hat. Contemporary paintings of the American War reveal that officers frequently adopted similar jackets in the field. Another Royals Officer, Thomas Sinclair, records that around 1806 a small dirk was being worn in preference to the regimental broadsword in the West Indies, but this practice was evidently a long standing one. Grenadier officers' fusils were officially been laid aside in 1792 but there is widespread evidence of firelocks continuing to be carried by individual officers on campaign during the next 20 years.

3. W.O. 25/96 77.

4. W.O. 12/1883. Urquhart appears to have married while in Ireland since his eldest daughter, Margaret, was born in Limerick in 1792. In 1812 she married William Bannatyne's grandson, James Grant, an E.I.C. ship's surgeon.

5. CO137/93/4692 and De Charmilly's account given in Marcus Rainsford's *History of the Black Empire of Hayti* [1805]. Casualty figures are drawn from WO12/1883 and WO17/95. The latter was actually compiled sometime after the 3rd No monthly returns survive for the 13th and 20th but the 49th had 17 taken prisoner and Lieutenant P. Brooke Ravenscroft of the 20th was killed. Garston and five of his men were rescued on the 3rd.

6. WO31/21 13.

7. WO27/77 and WO12/9985.

8. WO25/2992 122.

9. PMC4/150 7573.

10. IOR Court Minutes B, L/AG/23/3A/2, 0/1/197 no 49.

John Urquhart's dirk. The original black ebony grip was accidentally smashed by the author's father some 50 years ago while establishing that it was ill-balanced for throwing!





# John Urquhart

Bombarde, 1794



Ireland, 1791

See article on page 48